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Friday, August 9, 1985
Shravana 18, 1907 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 9, 1985/*Sravana 18, 1907*
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 263—
Shri Pradhani.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAI RAGI : If you can
do with Pradhan, then.....

MR. SPEAKER : From where should
I bring Pradhani ?

[English]

*263. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK† :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES
AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Aluminium
Company Limited's project cost has escalated
by Rs. 1,000 crores;

(b) whether during the current year
NALCO'S bauxite mine will have to become
operational and phase I of the eight lakh
tonnes capacity aluminium plant is expected
to commence production by September,
1985;

(c) if so, the budgetary support which
Government propose to give to NALCO by
raising the outlay;

(d) the steps being taken to prevent
further cost overrun and whether any
restraint is being exercised by the Project
authorities in incurring unnecessary
expenditure;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this is going to affect the
NALCO'S cost of production per tonne of
alumina or the metal; and

(g) if so, by how much and how will
it be able to compete in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (g). A Statement is given below :

Statement

(a) The Revised Cost Estimate of
NALCO, which is under consideration, is
Rs. 2226 crores, as against its original cost
of Rs. 1242 crores sanctioned in November,
1980 based on the prices of first quarter of
1980.

(b) The schedule for the completion of
the Project is as follows :

Bauxite Mine	November, 1985
Alumina—Phase I	September, 1986
Aluminium—Potline I	December, 1986

(c) The capital outlay for the Company
is being financed partly from Euro dollar
loan/French Credit and the balance is being
met from budgetary resources of the
Government. The cumulative expenditure
upto 1984-85 is Rs. 1129 crores and a pro-
vision of Rs. 412 crores has been made for
the year 1985-86, which is proposed to be
increased to Rs. 702 crores.

(d) and (e). The Revised Cost Estimates
are based on the price level of 1st quarter of
1985 and 90% of the commitments have
already been made on firm price basis. In
respect of balance commitments, strict
control is being exercised.

(f) Yes Sir. The increase in the Capital Cost has its impact on depreciation and interest charges.

(g) The cost of production of both Alumina and Aluminium for NALCO will largely depend on the prices of various input materials prevailing from time to time; but NALCO will have the benefit of the latest technology. The selling price of aluminium is regulated under the Essential Commodities Act, which ensures a fair price to all producers and at the same time protects the interests of the consumers.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Sir, it is learnt that all over the world depending upon its availability and commercial viability aluminium plants are getting scarcer and facing serious problems. Keeping this in view, I would like to know whether any study is being made from time to time about the production cost and selling price both for alumina and aluminium. If so, what is the observation ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, it is a fact that internationally the aluminium price varies between Rs. 12,000 per tonne and Rs. 10,000 per tonne and in India we have a rich deposit of bauxite from which we can make alumina and aluminium, but the basic constraint is power. Aluminium production is noted as power guzzler. So, unless we have enough power and at cheaper cost to produce aluminium, aluminium production in India in spite of having the best raw material, that is, bauxite, becomes costlier compared to international prices. In spite of this, we are working on various projects like BALCO and the latest is NALCO project, where we intend to produce aluminium both for internal consumption and to save on import of aluminium in the country.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Aluminium being a power intensive industry, it was decided to go in for captive power plant having five units each of 120 MW capacity giving a total installed capacity of 600 MW. But each of these units, it is learnt, requires for every 10 months of operation two months of maintenance. Roughly, in a year one unit's output is lost.

Keeping this in view, is there any proposal for two more captive power plants each of 120 MW capacity ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are already planning to have captive power plants both in NALCO and in BALCO and these power plants will have sufficient capacity to meet the requirements of these units. So, as far as captive power plants are concerned, there will be no shortage.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I will ask a Supplementary in continuation of my past Supplementary which is also related to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER : In context with the earlier one also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Also in several parts.

MR. SPEAKER : In reference to the context !

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, on one occasion I related this problem, I had put the question to the hon. Minister that manufacture of aluminium requires more power and manufacture of alumina requires less power. The Maharashtra, in the backward Konkan region...

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : This is not pertaining to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let him decide. You are not the Speaker. I will support you next time. *(Interruptions)*. Sir, it is connected. He asked questions about two plants, he talked about the captive plants. It is related to that. This is not a medical problem.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, if allow him like this...

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are yet to become a Speaker.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What I am asking the hon. Minister is, last time when I said that in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra, the Bharat Aluminium project has remained pending and their right grouse has been that the Maharashtra Government has not been able to give us the necessary electric power required for the manufacture of aluminium.

And there I had told him instead of going for the manufacture of aluminium if you go for the manufacture of alumina, it would require less power. He said, "We will explore the possibility. If the Maharashtra Government is able to give power, we will study the proposition." I want to tell him that all the MPs in Maharashtra had a meeting with the Chief Minister and all other concerned Ministers in Maharashtra and the Chief Minister has agreed to provide power, if you go in for the manufacture of alumina. The power required for alumina will be 1/3rd of that of the manufacture of aluminium. That much power will be supplied by the Maharashtra Government. The assurance was given by the Chief Minister to all the MPs—all Congress MPs as well as non-Congress MPs. We are in minority. Here it is an assurance to the ruling Party MPs. In view of this assurance, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up this project which has been pending for a very long time and complete it with the process of manufacture of alumina.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I have not received any proposal from the Chief Minister or the Government of Maharashtra about production of alumina. When I receive the proposal, we will consider its economics as to what to do with the alumina. Therefore, this is hypothetical at this stage.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is not hypothetical, in the sense, you can ask any Maharashtra MP whether this assurance was given by the Chief Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, he also belongs to Maharashtra.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He knows it. As a Minister, he was absent. That is all. He was an absentee landlord at that meeting. Any-way, we will get the letter from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and you please consider it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I apologise to Prof. Madhu Dandavate, through you, because in Ratnagiri, a very small deposit of gypsite variety of ore is there which will consume some power in the

production of alumina. That is a separate thing...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Once he wanted to function as Speaker; now he wanted to function as Minister. Let him function as the Member.

MR. SPEAKER : The consolation is, it passes through me.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, time and again, I am asking the same supplementary regarding the escalation of Rs. 1,000 crores. On the 26th January, 1980, a protocol was signed by the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi with the President of France for the alumina-aluminium smelter in Orissa, particularly in Patengi, Pachpatmali area. It requires less power as raw material for the manufacture of alumina. In 1981, they had signed a turnkey agreement with Pschyney Ltd. of France. *(Interruptions).* I am putting the infrastructure for your academical knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : In 1981, we signed an agreement with Pschyney Ltd. But after some time, this contract was made to sign with the EIL. Due to the change of contract and delay involved, the escalation has gone to more than Rs. 1,000 crores. After some time, this firm Pschyney Ltd., has signed a contract with Tomago of Australia where the plant is now going on production to a rated capacity of 8 lakh tonnes of alumina, with the cost escalation of 25%. Whereas in our case, there was a cost escalation of Rs. 1,000 crores. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will constitute an enquiry committee to find out who is at fault, whether bureaucrats or somebody else.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is no need of any enquiry committee. We had already gone into this question. This has been replied to earlier also. The reason for escalation is, the cost that was worked out for the project as estimated at Rs. 1,242.4 crores was based on the price of first quarter of 1980. As that time itself, in January, 1981, we had said to the Government that if they took the escalation aspect

into the project, which is normally not done, even if it had been done, then at that time itself, it would be Rs. 1,712 crores on account of escalation. That is naturally the inflationary escalation. The element of inflationary escalation is nearly 80% in the cost of escalation. Therefore, we cannot say that the cost that has gone up is in any way either due to anybody's fault or due to non-implementation or anything like that. The project is going according to schedule. I must say this to the House that the entire implementation of the project is according to schedule.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I wanted an Inquiry Committee...

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Why should I have an Inquiry Committee unnecessarily? I do not believe in 'Committee-ology' having too many Committees.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Thirty per cent of India's total bauxite is deposited in the east coast in Visakhapatnam. Is it a fact that the Russian experts who have been engaged to go into the feasibility of locating the aluminium project there have recommended location of the projects at Krishnadevapatnam in Visakhapatnam? And is it a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has offered facilities—land, water and power—to the Government of India for locating the aluminium project there? If that is so, if these are facts, will the hon. Minister say what he is going to do for the purpose of locating the aluminium project there?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as the Andhra aluminium project is concerned, the Russian experts in collaboration with India are examining the feasibility of the project and it is at an advanced stage. As soon as we have the feasibility report, we will be able to proceed further.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Can you give the time?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I cannot give the time.

Development of Coal resources in Orissa

*264 **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL† :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether some steps have recently been taken for the development of coal resources in Orissa;

(b) whether the developmental programme has been initiated with external assistance;

(c) if so, the names of the countries and financial institutions which are assisting in implementing the developmental programme of the coal resources available in Orissa; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on the development of coal resources in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. At present the coal production in Orissa is 5.44 million tonnes (1984-85). Some of the steps being taken up for the development of the coal resources in Orissa with a view to raising production to about 13 million tonnes by the end of Seventh Plan (1989-90) are :

- (i) Sanctioning of a new opencast coal project with annual output capacity of 3.50 million tonnes at Bharatpur and expansion of capacity of Jagannath Opencast mine from 1.00 m.t. to 2.00 m.t. per year.
- (ii) Action is in hand to update the project report for South Balanda mine for increasing its production to 1.00 m.t. per year from present level of production of 0.60 m.t. during 1984-85.
- (iii) Feasibility studies for opening a highly mechanised underground mine at Ananta are in progress.
- (iv) New opencast projects at Ananta, Kalinga and Lingraj block are also being planned for development, to meet the increasing requirement of coal by Power Sector.

(v) Feasibility of updating the mining methods in Nandira underground and Talcher underground mines is also being examined.

(vi) Drawing up a master plan of Talcher coalfield has also been taken up to identify major coal mining blocks for exploration and infrastructural requirements.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Assistance of CHARBONNAGE DE FRANCE (an organisation of the France Government) has been sought for studying the feasibility of increasing the coal production from the Nandira underground mine in Talcher coalfields. The CHARBONNAGE DE FRANCE is also assisting in preparing a techno-economic feasibility for the development of a mechanised underground mine alongwith a beneficiation plant at Ananta, in Talcher coalfield. These studies are being funded from the French credit.

(d) During the year 1985-86, a provision of Rs. 22 crores (approx) has been made for coal mines of Orissa.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that feasibility study to increase the coal production from Nandira underground mine and also to set up a coal beneficiation plant at Ananta in Talcher has been undertaken with French assistance. I would like to know from the Government as to how much assistance has been given by the French organisation for the study and by which year the study is expected to be completed. What is the latest position ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The latest position is that in collaboration with CHARBONNAGE DE FRANCE, the organisation of France, we are studying the feasibility of increasing the coal production from the Nandira underground mine in Talcher coalfields. During 1985-86, a provision of Rs. 22 crores has been made for coal mines of Orissa, and this project is one of them.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total quantum of coal produced in the coalfields of Orissa at present, whether there is enormous potential for development of

coal resources of the State and in view of the increase in demand for power whether the Government proposes to implement the suggestions given by the Government of Orissa to set up two coal-based super thermal power plants, one at Talcher and the other in Ib Valley in that State.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, Sir, there are good prospects in Orissa. The coal reserves that have been discovered are very good and substantial. If figures are needed, the proven coal reserves in Talcher coalfields are 912.95 million tonnes and in Ib Valley 82.79 million tonnes—good quality of coal. In the Seventh Plan, priority has been given for the development of the said coalfields in Orissa. From 1984-85 to 1988-89, in the case of Talcher coalfields we propose to go to the tune of 8.90 million tonnes and in Ib Valley we propose to increase from 2 to 5 million tonnes; the total from 5.44 to 13.90 million tonnes.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that Talcher belt has the thickest coal deposits—about 145 feet is the thickness—which is perhaps, the highest in our country. Secondly, whether Government is also aware that the overburden coal ratio in Orissa is only 1 : 1.3 whereas in other parts of our country it is 1 : 4.5. That means the cost of production of coal in other parts of the country is very high and in Orissa it is the cheapest. Therefore, in view of this deposit and thickness and cheapness of production, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether in the entire Sixth Plan it was neglected for the development of coal fields in Orissa. By merely granting Rs. 22 crores in 1984-85 do they think that they will meet the requirements of them when so much of deposit and reserve and thickness is there in Talcher. I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the French credit for having them and whether some Soviet credit is also available for this area.

The Headquarters of the Central Coal Fields is in Ranchi and the Headquarters of Western Coal Fields is in Nagpur. In view of the big deposits that the Hon. Minister has just now explained to the House, whether both these coal fields and the Talcher coal

fields will be united into one coal field with Headquarters in Orissa ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, too many questions at one go. I am not aware of the exact amount at present. I will give the figures to the Hon. Member of the French credit involved. But I can say one thing I said that Rs. 22 crores in 1985-86, but the total amount which we have earmarked for the Seventh Five Year Plan in Orissa alone is Rs. 200 crores and above. Therefore, the Government is anxious and is eager to exploit the rich reserve of coal in Orissa.

I agree with the Hon. Member that the coal deposits in Orissa are economically viable because of the ratio of over burden to coal.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Sir, the statement laid on the table of the House by the Hon. Minister speaks about long-term measures. What about short-term measures? In Orissa, the Talcher coal has a high ash content. The boilers were so designed by USA to suit this type of coal. The boilers are there in fact Utkali. What we require is E.S.P. (Electro Static Precipitators) which can remove the waste and abrasives. What step the Government has taken as this Ministry is in charge of the administration of Coal Mine Conservation and Development Act ? What action has this Ministry taken for the last ten years and what are they going to do now to help the OSEB to improve the power generation because we are thinking of putting up a super thermal power station. Are you going to carry coal to local stations ? You are only taking a mother-in-law attitude. That is my complaint Sir.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are not taking mother-in-law attitude, we are taking mother attitude. That will be seen from the fact that I have myself visited Talcher and I saw the OSEB Power Station and their problem. The problem is not only about the boiler and the precipitator, but also about the conveyor there.

(Interruptions)

A good mother-in-law excepted.

Sir, what we have done is at we have advised the Orissa Government. The cost of replacing the conveyor belt will not be very high. That will immediately make

possible for the conveyor to carry more coal and have better utilisation of the power house. We can only give advice. Whatever assistance we can give as far as coal is concerned, as we have assured them that we will see that proper coal is made available to them. What more you want us to do for them ?

(Interruptions)

Losses suffered by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited

*266. **SHRI K. S. RAO :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the losses suffered by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited as on the 30th June, 1985;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give away this Corporation to private management; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is the present position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Accumulated losses till 1983-84 were of the order of Rs. 80 crores. The accounts for 1984-85 and beyond have not been finalised so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI K. S. RAO : The intention of the Government to-day is production-oriented. In case of these companies where is no dearth of technical knowledge or competency, where is the need for continuing these construction companies which are adding to the burden of the Exchequer every year and year after year ? Apart from the loss, they are also not getting any income by way of income tax or any other income to the Government. So I just want to know from the hon. Minister if there is any proposal with the Ministry to find out such companies which are causing heavy losses every year either to wind them up or to find out the ways to reduce the losses.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The width and range of the supplementary is quite staggering. I can only answer with regard to the Ministry of Steel. Naturally Government

is very concerned that HSCL is running at a heavy loss. What other Ministries are doing. I cannot say. We know the reasons why a particular company is running in loss. We will try to find out how to minimise these losses. Every possible and viable alternative is being looked at.

SHRI K. S. RAO : In continuation of this, I can understand if this company were to take up the work on its own accord by employing the labourers directly. But after taking up the work, this company has once again resorted to giving it on sub-contract by which we are employing other contractors who would have otherwise tendered for the contract and by which we would have suffered 10 to 15 per cent of the total value of the contract. There is no point in sitting quiet even for a little time and in continuing this process and causing this loss continuously. The Government must find out ways particularly in view of the assurances given by the Prime Minister that we are immediately thinking of those public undertakings which are causing heavy losses to find out and take measures immediately.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : This is an expression of hope which I share.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : May I ask the hon. Minister.....

MR. SPEAKER : I did not allow Prof. Ranga. He has to come through me.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What is it you have ordered—I do not understand.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has ordered for order in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Through proper channel, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If you like, I can serve as a channel for repeating that question.

MR. SPEAKER : You can do it... Allowed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Minister has replied in the negative to part (b) of the question, i.e. 'whether there is any proposal to give away this Corporation to private management.' Well, we must be thankful for small mercies. But I would like to know from him—because it has appeared quite prominently in various press reports—

if the Government is considering to shut down or dismantle this organisation altogether which, of course, would also lead large-scale unemployment of about 20,000 people. I would like to know from him whether it is a fact or not that one difficulty has been that when this construction force which is mainly based at Bokaro, as he said, has been sought to be utilised in the construction of new steel plants in other parts of the country, for example, in Vizag...

AN HON. MEMBER : Also for expansion in Bhilai.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Bhilai was much earlier. There has been lot of local resistance to the employment of these people on the ground that local labour should be used and these people should not be brought. I want to know whether it is a fact and also whether they have received any memorandum from the Engineers' Association of this Company who have sought to diagnose why this Company has been making losses and suggested some remedies for it. They also pointed out that there is too much excessive use of contracting and sub-contracting which always led to losses. Is he aware of the proposals made by the Engineers' Association of this Company?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir, I have not seen this particular proposal from the Engineers' Association. With regard to the earlier observation of the hon. Member that there is resistance to workers of the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. going from Bokaro that is quite true. As a matter of fact the feeling in other states is quite strong. As he will recollect in 1977 when certain workers were asked to go from Bokaro to Bhilai there was very strong agitation even when the number was only six hundred. A formula was worked out between the then Prime Minister, Shri Desai, Mr. Patnaik and Shri Saklecha that for every one local person transferred from Bokaro three local would be taken. But this did not solve our problem. The problem that we are now facing is that the construction work in all these plants has been completed and yet this surplus labour force remains with us.

As regards the speculation whether the company is going to be taken over by a private concern, I would like to say that

there is no proposal with the Government in this regard. I might add that no private company is dively to take on a labour force of 23,000. In organisations like National Building Construction Corporation and National Projects Construction Corporation they have their own arrangements. HSCL is the only Organisations which carries its work force and that work force is stationary. That is our problem. The losses of this company are about Rs. 100 crores. Part of due them are to the external works in Iraw, Libya and the Maldives. In the Maldives we made a modest profit. In Libya the loss is larger. Total of Libya and Iraq is about 29 crores. Except at Vizag there is no other plant being built. Therefore, the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. which was started in 1964 in order to stop private exploitation by the constructors having done its work upto 1977-78 is continuously running at a loss. We are trying to find out (a) how not to retrench any people; (b) how to ensure that unemployment does not increase; (c) how the company does not incur any losses. This is the dilemma and honestly there is no easy solution for this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister since I am very much involved in this company so far as labour is concerned whether it is a fact that a large number of the tribal workers from Bokaro, Dhanbad and Purlia in the initial stage who were in this Company ultimately become a large surplus force and they gave a concrete proposal for their absorption in Bokaro Steel Plant, in IISCO and any other steel plant so that within four years the work force will get stability to maintain economy in balanced shape. Whether it is a fact that inspite of this proposal being there it has not been looked into and carried out by the Ministry. If so, then will they look into it? That is my precise point.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : About this proposal I shall certainly try and find out and satisfy the hon. Member. But I just want to mention that on account of surplus labour the Cumulative loss that the company has incurred is to the tune of Rs. 43 crores. The surplus manpower has been aggravating the financial problem of the company and since 1979-80 to 1984-85, this surplus has caused a loss of about Rs. 43 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : But you have recruited them and then you retrench them. Why should they be at first be employed and then retrenched?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : They were employed because they were required for the civil construction and plants installation and have remained with company even since.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question—267—Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat. She is not here. Next question—269.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. speaker, Sir, what happened of my Question No. 268?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your question No. 268 has been postponed to 19th. Next Question 269—Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty.

Seizure of Gold and Textile by Custom Authorities

*269. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total worth of sold and textile seized by customs during the preceding three years;

(b) whether the sources namely countries from which such smuggling is taking place have been identified;

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) how many smugglers have been arrested and prosecuted during the year 1984-85 and whether any of them is detained under National Security Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). A statement is given blow.

Statement

(a) The value of gold and textiles seized by the Customs authorities during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 is furnished below :

(Value : Rs. in crores)

Year	Gold	Textiles
1982	12.88	7.61
1983	4.18	15.00
1984	10.24	18.39

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The drive smugglere has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department has been reinforced in terms of manpower and equipment. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures both short-term and long-term, are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The trends of smuggling and seizures are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action, as warranted.

(d) The number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities under the Customs Act, those prosecuted and these detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1974 (none can be detained under National Security Act for smuggling as such); during the period April, 1984 to March, 1985 are as under :

Number of persons arrested	Number of persons prosecuted	Number of persons detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1974
2375*	1396*	750

*Figures are provisional.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, for part (b) of my question that is, whether the sources namely countries from which such smuggling is taking place have been identified, the answer given by the Minister in the Statement is : Yes, Sir. But the names of the countries have not been mentioned in the reply. Sir, apparently, Nepal, Dubai and Japan are the countries from which smuggling is taking place. So far as Nepal is concerned, recently, they have liberalised the personal baggage rules

under which they can carry goods worth of Rs. 20,000 into Nepal without any difficulty, although they are releasing only \$150 for a person. So, naturally, this is to encourage smuggling into India. That means Government is already encouraging smuggling. Dubai is also importing Polyester for the purpose smuggling the same into India. So also from Japan nylon is smuggled into India. My question is very clear. I want to know whether the Government is taking and step with those countries to prevent smuggling at the source. Recently, the Nepal Foreign Minister had made a press statement that trade and transit treaty with India is unequal, You have persuade the Government of Nepal and other countries to take preventive measures against smuggling. I think no Government can openly come forward and support smuggling. My point is that at least they should take steps to prevent smuggling. Otherwise, it is highly impossible for the Government of India to check smuggling. The hon. Finance Minister must have seen the statement of the Nepalese Foreign Minister very recently, in the month of July, that the trade agreement with the Government of India is not satisfactory and they are unequal treaty and that also indicate that they should be given more liberal scope for smuggling. My question is : what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, the hon. Member has said that the question whether the sources are known to the Government we answered 'Yes'. He did not ask the names of the countries. About beggare rules and they being the route of smuggling, baggage rules are open rules and if anybody violates the rules, we always take action. Whenever we come across that the baggage rules or any other rules are contravened, we take action. About trade and transit treaty, there is no smuggling provided there.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : My question has not been understood. My question was : whether you have taken up with the Governments of Nepal, Dubai and Japan to take appropriate steps to prevent smuggling from that end.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : So far as Nepal is concerned, we are in dialogue with them and these things are

brought to their notice, whenever necessary. As regards other Governments, I have no information about Government to Government dialogue.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : My question was : How many smugglers have been arrested and prosecuted during the year 1984 and 1985, and whether any of them had been detained under the National Security Act ? Perhaps I was not understood. They say that the National Security Act is not applicable. Perhaps, that was the impression of the Finance Ministry. Persons who are smuggling arms and ammunition will not come within the purview of COFEPOSA, and National Security Act is the appropriate Act under which they can be detained, and that is why I put the question. Have the Government got information to say how many arm smugglers have been arrested, prosecuted and detailed. My impression is that COFEPOSA is not applicable in this case.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : National Security Act is not applied to smugglers. I have got figures for COFEPOSA. In 1985, upto 27th July, 1985, 485 persons have been arrested. About arms smuggling, I do not have the date with me.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : There are different kinds of passengers bringing foreign goods into the country. One is the smugglers, who bring good for sale and for making money, but there are other type of passengers, who work abroad, especially as coolies. They also bring some textiles for their families, two-in-one or three-in-one transisters for their families. Will the Government be kind enough to give them some concessions by raising the limit or something of that type for them ? From the Gulf countries, we earn about Rs. 500 crores worth of foreign exchange. Will the Government consider giving some concessions to this type people ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : This problem has been posed by people returning from Gulf countries. At this moment, I can only take note of the suggestion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Is it a fact that textiles, watches and costly electronic goods worth crores of rupees seized by

the customs authorities are lying in godowns like rubbish and goods worth crores of rupees get damaged due to non-availability of proper godowns and adequate staff to man them ? Is the Department also aware that there is a racket in which the officials and the traders are involved, for selling goods in good condition after showing the as damaged and if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I cannot say that such a practice is common, but at the same time I cannot deny it totally. Action is taken whenever such things come to our notice.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I have asked about the condition of the godowns ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am not in a position to tell immediately about the condition of all the godowns where smuggled goods are stored, but as far as possible, they are well maintained.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : These goods worth crores of rupees fetch revenue to the Government.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I can reply to anything relevant to the main question.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : You should pay a visit to these godowns once.

[*English*]

Underground Gas and fire at Sanctoria village in Asansol

*270. **SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether underground gas and fire came out at Sanctoria village in Asansol;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to stop it ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Underground fires from shallow abandoned coal Mines in areas near Sanctoria village and the neighbouring Bastees have been noticed since, 1946. Sometimes, whenever subsidence takes place and cracks

develop, the underground fires or gas may come out to the surface. Unplanned and unscientific mining by private mine owners prior to nationalisation has been the principal reason for these fires.

(b) After nationalisation, bull-dozing and sani blanketing have been done by Eastern Coalfields Limited. This has resulted in controlling the fires and gases. Whenever, there is recurrence of fires or gases, these operations will be repeated.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : The hon. Minister has admitted that due to unscientific and unplanned mining by private owners prior to nationalisation, gases and fires used to come out. Is the same still taking place? If so, what is the reason? Is it due to illegal mining or unplanned mining by the present management? I want to know whether Government has decided to give compensation to those who are affected by it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as this area is concerned, there is no illegal mining taking place now, and there are no fires or gases as at present. But if any time, due to cracks on the surface some such thing arises, immediate action will be taken. As far as compensation is concerned, no case of damage to any worker or anybody has arisen because of this. So, the question of compensation has not arisen.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Everybody knows that illegal mining is rampant in coal field areas. What steps have the Government taken to stop this?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, I was taking about this field. But if you are taking about the whole coal field area and particularly, the notorious coal fields, this phenomenon is there. Everybody knows that. And the only way this can be stopped is, as I have been repeatedly saying, by the involvement of the workforce itself, because they know best where the shoe pinches and who are the mischief makers. I do not know any other method. State Governments are trying to do their best under the law. No one can do private coal mining. It is an offence and it is a crime to do coal mining by any private party under the law.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government come forward to help the

victims of natural calamities such as drought or cyclone or flood. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what their attitude is when people become victims because of manmade calamities. When their life and properties are in danger, are the Government ready to compensate them or to rehabilitate them in a new place?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Any calamity whether manmade or natural is bad and our sympathy goes to anyone who suffers and we try to help them. There are laws of compensating. But here the question is of fire. We have been telling people that people should agree to shift from such areas where there is underground fire, and there are such villages like this Sanctoria. I am sure, State Governments, can agree to give land where there is no fire. So, these villages should shift and other such colonies also should agree to shift. That is the only permanent solution. You insist on being in a place where there is underground fire. Surprisingly, even new buildings are coming up in the areas where underground fire exists and subsidence is taking place. People just do not move. You do not move. You will say, "Tomorrow subsidence will take place, I will suffer damages and you must compensate." I really cannot understand this.

AN HON. MEMBER : Open-cast mining is going on. What about that?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Opencast mining is a different thing.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This problem is very serious. I have personally visited these areas and I have seen such places. Last year, where there was Paddy cultivation, this year that whole land has become a big pond and particularly the Raniganj township is facing a real danger. There are 45 unsafe villages in that area. The Government have some proposals for shifting of Jharia township and I think it is in the final stage. Whether the Government have received any proposal for shifting of Raniganj township also? What they are considering for Jharia, whether there is any proposal from CIL for Raniganj township also?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have not received any proposal from Raniganj; it is not to my knowledge.

Investment made by Non-resident Indians

***271. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made so far by the non-resident Indians in the country;

(b) the target of such investment in the Seventh Plan period;

(c) whether Government propose to widen the avenues and scope for investment by non-resident Indians in the country during the Seventh Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The position, for the period since April 1982, relating to investment, facilities for non-residents of Indian nationality/origin as well as overseas corporate bodies owned at least to the extent of 60% by them, for which data is available with the Reserve Bank of India, is as follows :

	Amount (Rs. in crores)
(A) Direct investment	
(As on 30-6-1985)	315.96
(B) Portfolio Investment	
Actual purchases of Shares/Debentures through Stock Exchanges (As on 31-3-1985)	46.87
(C) Bank Deposits	
Outstanding balances (as on 31-5-1985)	3968.64

(b) The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised; hence the information is not available.

(c) A number of avenues are already available for the Non-Resident Indians for investments under the various existing schemes. These remain under constant review.

(d) Not applicable.

SHRI AMAR RORPRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one can easily find the rapid growth of investment by non-Indian Residents in our country. And the figure is with us. According to that figure, the current flow of investments by non-resident Indians would be to the tune of more than Rs. 4,000 crores compared to Rs. 73 crores in the year 1982. You can easily understand how much it affects our economy. So it is a very simple question that I would like to put. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has studied the effect of the NRI investment on the fiscal policy, on the rupee value and on the prices of essential commodities ? I want to know whether the Government has made any approach to these investments and to see that they will invest the money, particularly, in the backward areas and if so, what is the result ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We have taken precaution that these do not go into the real estate or commercial buildings etc.

So there are guidelines about it, about repatriation and non-repatriation. As regards the effect on the prices of essential commodities, I do not think so. These are investments made for production and for drawing in funds to the country. As to what is beneficial to the country and its economy, only these parameters have been kept.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I do not know what steps you have taken, but on the 6th of August, it was published in the Telegraph of Calcutta that non-Resident Indians headed by Shri Praful Patil has met the authorities concerned to raise investments ceilings. As soon as they approached, the Reserve Bank has made it clear for Rs. 1,000 crores. Though the non-Resident Indians are saying that we have no intention to take over but it is the apprehension of the entire business community in general that it may be taken over. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether has he gone through it and if so, what is the reaction ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : So far as the decision of the take over is concerned, on non-repatriation basis, only 5 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital or total paid up value of each series

of convertible debentures are allowed. So there is a limit of 5 per cent.

So far as repatriation basis is concerned they cannot exceed investments. They cannot exceed 1 per cent of the paid-up capital in respect of each non-Indian Resident. The total for non-resident investment in a company cannot exceed 5% of the total paid-up capital. So, there is a limitation on how much investment can be made. So, the apprehension that take-overs will take place through this move, has been adequately taken care of.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Have you set up any cell for it in the Reserve Bank of India or elsewhere ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : R. B. I. monitors it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It is true that Government is giving a lot of incentives for investment by Indian nationals working abroad. But it remains a fact that even now, we are not able to attract a major portion of their savings. I know there are a number of Indians working abroad, who are prepared to start small scale and medium scale industries of their own, in this country. But they are not able to do it for lack of assistance. Technical, structural and other assistance is not forthcoming from the Department. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider the suggestion for giving special technical assistance and other incentives for those non-resident Indians who are prepared to start industries in this country.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Yes, it is quite in our policy. We have an Investment Centre for N.R.I.; and Government also helps them invest. This suggestion for technical assistance will be favourably considered.

Delegation of Powers to Commercial Banks by R.B.I.

***272. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Reserve Bank of India is considering and proposal for delegating more powers to commercial banks regarding exchange control traders accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether individuals asking for foreign exchange for travel abroad would also be allowed to draw foreign exchange within limits from the commercial banks without prior sanction of the Reserve Bank of India ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). It is presumed that the Hon. M. P. is referring to the exchange dealings (trading) activities of Banks as "Exchange Control Trader's Account" does not exist.

Under the current Exchange Control Regulations, banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange have been permitted to freely buy and sell both spot and forward any permitted currency against rupees or any other permitted currency from and to other authorised dealers in India subject to the condition that they should maintain at close of business day, square or near square position in each currency. Authorised Dealers have also been permitted to purchase and sell foreign currencies from/to overseas banks provided that such purchase or sale are in cover of genuine merchant transaction after exploring the possibilities of covering such transactions in the Indian inter-bank market and the transactions does not result in authorised dealer maintaining at the close of business on any day unreasonable open position in the currency or unreasonable mismatched maturities. RBI is not considering any proposal to delegate more powers to commercial banks in this regard.

(c) Under the current Exchange Control Regulations, holders of blanket exchange permit issued under RBI and ITC (Import Trade Control) Scheme and CAFEX (Composite Allocation of Foreign Exchange Scheme) permits issued under RBI's composite allocation of foreign exchange scheme are in a position to draw exchange for travel abroad from commercial banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange without reference to RBI on individual occasions. Indian residents wishing to go abroad under the

FTS and NTS schemes can also draw exchange upto US\$ 500 and US\$ 250 respectively from commercial banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange as well as authorised money changers, without prior permission of RBI.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The question was raised on the basis of a report appearing in the Economic Times of 13th July 1985, according to which the Exchange Controller is reported to have said that the Reserve Bank was considering a proposal to delegate more powers to the commercial banks in this respect. Is it not correct that the Patwardhan Committee has made recommendations for liberalization of these powers and delegation of more powers to the commercial banks ?

May I know what is the reaction of the Government thereto—or of the Reserve Bank ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We do not intend to increase the powers—what they have now.

Working of LIC without Coalman

*274. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL† :**
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India is working without a Chairman;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill the vacancy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). After the expiry of the tenure of a regular Chairman in September, 1982, the senior-most Managing Director of the LIC was appointed as Current-in-Charge with the powers of the Chairman. The appointment of a regular Chairman was postponed pending final decision on the reorganisation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Bill for which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 19, 1983.

(c) The matter of appointment of a Chairman is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the appointment of the Chairman has not been made since September, 1982 when the tenure of the regular Chairman had expired and it can affect the efficiency of the Life Insurance Corporation. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the appointment of the Chairman is under active consideration of the Government. I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which this active consideration will bring results ?

[English]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The position is this : there was a proposal to divide the Life Insurance Corporation into five Corporations. Now that proposal has been dropped. So, there was some delay on that account, because that was under consideration. We have come to a name; and it is under processing with the Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The reply which the hon. Minister has given is very interesting. He tells the House as if the Chairman could not be appointed, because the Bill to split up the LIC was already introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th December, 1983. In his own reply, in the first line, he has said that the expiry of the tenure of the regular Chairman was in September 1982. So, anticipating that on December 19, 1983, the Bill was going to be brought, with that telescopic vision, the hon. Minister kept the vacancy unfilled. The fact is, in almost of the public sector institutions, they are not at all having very set norms for the appointments. There are a number of irregularities and discriminations, and as a result of that, we find that a number of public sector institutions remained topless; by keeping them topless, they might have modernised them, but in the process, the efficiency suffers.

MR. SPEAKER : Did they become more attractive ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I know what he has in his mind.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want to ask him particularly that this being

the position in a number of other cases also, will he really apply his mind properly and evolve definite norms and see to it that no post like that remains vacant, because the man who comes only as an *ad hoc* man, he has no commitment to his job at all. A number of decisions are not properly taken. That is what is happening in LIC also. Therefore, will he revise it and at least give time-bound programme when will the vacancy be filled up after keeping it vacant for such a long time ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I can say that we will fill it up very very soon.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has not explained. In 1982, the vacancy was created. Your Bill is going to be introduced on 19th December, 1983. In between why did you keep it vacant ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Of course, there is some time lapse between September 1982 and December. In December, there was a proposal. If we have a senior person today and tomorrow we say, we will bifurcate it, no person would be willing to come. That is also a problem, because with the pendency that you are going to divide up.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Here, you have got the Bill, but in a number of other public sector institutions also you have kept the vacancies unfilled. You had replied to me in the past also. There was no Bill. So, this is the general deficiency of the government and lack of approach.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Steps are being taken. It is not that it is a general approach like that. There are specific problems by which there are pendency and delay and action is taken to fill up vacancies.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : By what time will you fill up the vacancy ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I cannot tell you exactly; very soon.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : "Very soon" has no meaning.

Purchases through DGS and D

***275. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large amount is due from the States, on account of purchases made by them through the Director General of Supply and Disposal under all kinds of contracts;

(b) if so, what is the total amount;

(c) since when is it due; and

(d) whether Government are considering charging interest on these transactions to expedite payments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Amounts of Rs. 21.39 crores and Rs. 28 lakhs are due from the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim respectively as on 31st July, 1985. In the case of some other State Governments, there are dues on account of disputed claims totalling Rs. 8.37 crores, mainly on account of relevant departments having been converted into autonomous bodies.

(c) The oldest item among dues from the Jammu and Kashmir State pertains to 1976-77; oldest item out of the dues payable by the Sikkim Govt. pertains to December, 1983. Oldest item out of the claims due from the rest are falling between the year 1976-77 to 1984-85.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir owe Rs. 21.39 crores whereas the rest of the States owe Rs. 8 crores to the Central Government. Do you make supplies in spite of the fact that the dues from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir date as back as

1976 or have you stopped further supplies to the State Government? Will you recover the dues together with interest if they fail to pay the outstanding dues?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : We have not stopped the supplies. The supplies are being made. Stoppage of this facility will create difficulties. We have implemented a decision w.e.f. 1-12-1983 according to which they will have to make advance or cash payment for their future purchases. So far as outstanding dues are concerned, a system has been evolved and we hope that the objective will be achieved thereby.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : But, what are the reasons?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : The Reserve Bank of India are not their bankers and hence this delay.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Smuggling of Indian Currency to Pakistan for Extremist Operations in India

*265. **SHRI PRATAPSIKH BAGHEL :**
SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian currency worth crores of rupees was clandestinely taken to Pakistan to pay the extremists operations in India; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and action taken to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Government have no information that Indian currency worth crores of rupees was being smuggled, out of the country to Pakistan for extremists operations in India. However, Border Security Force and Customs authorities have seized Rs. 40.00 lakhs (provisional) of Indian currency during the first seven months of 1985 from Indo-Pakistan border as against Rs. 1.10 lakhs of Indian currency seized during the whole of 1984.

The drive against smugglers has been state intensified on the Indo-Pak border. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department in the region has been re-inforced in terms of manpower and equipment joint ambushes, raids and patrols with the local police and other preventive agencies are organised by Border Security Force. Additional companies of Border Security Force have been deployed on Punjab-Pak border. Dog squads and mounted patrolling have been pressed into service to intercept and apprehend ex-filtrators and infiltrators. Observation towers have also been erected to watch movements of infiltrators. The trends of smuggling and seizures made in the region are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action as warranted.

[Translation]

Setting up of Super Zink Smelter Plant in Rajasthan

*267. **PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a site for setting up of a Super Zink Smelter Plant in Rajasthan has been selected;

(b) whether it is a fact that Chittorgarh is the most suitable place from technical point of view;

(c) if so, the time by which the work for the setting up of this plant will be started in Chittorgarh;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Hindustan Zinc Limited who have drawn up a proposal for setting up a new lead-zinc smelter, based on Rampura-Agucha lead-zinc deposits, have proposed location of the smelter at Chanderiya (near Chittorgarh) on techno-economic considerations.

(c) Investment decision on the project is pending consideration in the context of the resource constraint during the Seventh Plan.

(d) The stage of incurring expenditure has not been reached yet.

[English]

Second time conversion in overdrafts by States

*273. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have converted the overdrafts of the States of a second time recently;

(b) whether States which have no overdrafts will get similar loans;

(c) the interest on loan and on the overdrafts; and

(d) the reasons given for overdrafts by States ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Government of India provided Medium term loans to States for converting their deficits/anticipated overdrafts during 1982-83 and 1983-84. It is now proposed to provide Medium term loans equivalent to 90% of States' overdrafts as of 28-1-1985.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The interest on Medium term loan is 8% and that on overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India is 13%.

(d) The States have reported increase in non-Plan and Plan expenditure as reasons for their overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

Introduction of Kidney Insurance Scheme

*276. SHRI VISHUNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a kidney insurance scheme for replacement or treatment of kidney if it gets out of order like the Cancer Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) General insurance industry has already introduced a Hospitalisation and Domiciliary Hospitalisation Benefit Policy with effect from 1st June, 1985. The Policy covers various diseases including renal diseases, kidney transplantation, etc. The overall benefits including additional benefits permissible under the above Policy vary from Rs. 7000 for category V to Rs. 37,800 for category I with corresponding total annual premium rates per person varying from Rs. 72 to Rs. 378.

Profit earned from Lapsed Certificates by Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

*277. SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company has earned profit of crores of rupees from the lapsed certificates and now intends to make the principal company sick by investing this money in other companies; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government against such a move ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited is a company registered under the Companies Act and its affairs are regulated by its Board of Directors. Reserve Bank of India has reported that an inspection of the Company conducted by it in 1978 had revealed that the Company earned sizeable amounts through lapsed certificates. The Reserve Bank has, however, no information whether the Company intends to make itself sick by investing such amounts in other companies.

In terms of the provisions of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978, the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. was served with a notice on August 10, 1979 by

the Government of West Bengal who are entrusted with the implementation of the provisions of the Banning Act, to wind up its business. The company filed a writ petition in the High Court of Calcutta on September 3, 1979 challenging the applicability of the Act to its business and obtained a stay. Union Government and Reserve Bank of India and the Government of West Bengal are the Respondants in the Writ Petition. The matter is still pending in the court.

[English]

Production of Controlled Cloth in Private and Public Sector

***278. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of controlled cloth produced in the country in public and private sectors during the past three years; and

(b) the quantity of the controlled cloth which was distributed in the rural areas during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Under the existing controlled cloth scheme, Controlled cloth is being produced entirely by the National Textile Corporation Mills. The quantity of controlled cloth produced by the NTC mills during the past three years is as under :

(Figures in million sq. metres)

Year	Production	
1982-83	220.00	
1983-84	294.99	(plus 8 million metres of polyester cotton blended shirting)
1984-85	245.73	(plus 7 million sq. metres of polyester cotton blended shirting).

The distribution of controlled cloth is primarily the responsibility of State Government. The data in respect of the quantity of

controlled cloth distributed in the rural areas during the past three years is not available.

Use of Brand-Name of Foreign Company for Export of Cashew

***279. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cashew Corporation of India has decided to export Cashew in value added form by using the brand name of an American Company;

(b) the reasons why it was considered necessary to take the brand name of foreign company for exporting Cashew to Gulf countries; and

(c) what will be the effect of this new system in financial terms, namely foreign exchange earnings and also the turn-over of the Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). An American Company is negotiating a contract with Cashew Corporation of India to pack edible nuts including Cashew under their brand name for export to their customers.

(c) The contract if concluded will result in foreign exchange earnings to Cashew Corporation of India.

Audit of Accounts of Autonomous Bodies/Organisation by C & AG

***280. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the accounts of the autonomous bodies/organisations are accountable and auditable every year by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Account of some of autonomous organisations had not been audited for the last ten years; and

(d) if so, the details of those organisations and the specific reasons and whether it is proposed to audit them now ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (d). Under the provisions of Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 the Comptroller and Auditor General is not required to keep the accounts of autonomous bodies/organisations. However, their accounts are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in accordance with the provisions of the Act. No case has come to the notice of the CAG where audit of an autonomous body under the Central Government required to be undertaken by his officers is pending for the last ten years.

Legislation for Non-payment of Deposits with Companies

***281. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to bring legislation to make non-payment of deposits with companies after a notice period of two months to the company in writing as a punishable offence under the Indian Penal Code;

(b) if so, whether the said legislation will be introduced during this Session;

(c) if so, the details of the said legislation; and

(d) whether small investors are also to be covered under the said legislation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present. However, Law Commission have made such a recommendation in their Working Paper on Company Deposits and have invited public comments thereon.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Pending Capital Issue Cases of I.T.C. Ltd.

***282. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any case of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. and other units of I.T.C. Ltd.

relating to capital issues which are pending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). No proposal from M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947 relating to capital issues in at present pending with Government.

Modernisation of N.T.C. Mills

2737. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the N.T.C. mills would be modernised;

(b) names of those mills whose modernisation scheme would be taken up and when; and

(c) the details of those schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). It may not be possible to modernise all the N.T.C. mills with limited resources. The policy is to use the limited resources through a programme of selective modernisation so as to optimise benefits from it. The mill-wise schemes for the VIIIth Plan have not been finalised so far.

Meeting of Office Bearers of City Bank Unions with Minister of State for Finance

2738. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of office-bearers of City Bank Unions, affiliated to INTUC, met the Union Minister of State for Finance at Bangalore on the 29th June, 1985;

(b) if so, what were the demands; and

(c) what action has been taken on their demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). There was no formal meeting between me and the office bearers of the Bangalore City Unions of Indian National Bank Employee's/Officers' Congress on 29th June, 1985. Various people representing different interests including local officers' and employees' representatives of the banks and other financial institutions meet me informally during the course of my tours. Written representations/requests, if given, during the course of such meetings, are referred to authorities concerned for appropriate action.

[Translation]

Opening of divisional coal deposits at Sagar, M.P.

2739. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to open divisional coal depot at Sagar in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for not opening coal depot at Sagar so far; and

(c) the time by which coal depot at Sagar is likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). In consultation with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in July, 1982, Coal India Limited decided to open 12 stockyards (including one at Sagar) in Madhya Pradesh. The stockyard at Sagar could not be opened as it is not a rake fit station and movement to this location by rail is not permitted by the Railways.

[English]

Steps to push up Engineering Exports to West Asian and African Countries

2741. SHRI BHOLANATH SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated steps to push up engineering exports to West Asian and African countries;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) what is the response from the West Asian and African countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The Government have taken a series of measures for boosting the export of engineering goods. These, *inter-alia*, include continuation of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme, liberalisation of Imports for export production, lines of credits to some countries etc. The response in terms of increase in exports depends on the demand of these products in these countries.

Jewellery Projects

2742. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : SHRI R. P. DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any jewellery projects in the country;

(b) if so, when and the names of the places where these projects would be set up;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up such project in Salt Lake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The Scheme for setting up Special Export Oriented Complexes for manufacture of gold jewellery for export was notified vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 54-ITC(PN)/84, dated 12th September, 1984. To start with, the complexes will be permitted at five Centres, viz., Delhi, Jaipur, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

(c) to (e). The State Government of West Bengal has decided to earmark on acre of land in Salt Lake, Calcutta, for setting up a 100 percent Export Oriented Complex, for the purpose.

Export of 'D' Oil Cake

2743. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of D Oil Cake exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has lost its foreign market in the field of D Oil Cake and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such States which are exporting D Oil Cake and through which agency it is being exported; and

(d) what measures are being taken to establish our foreign market in regard to D Oil Cake and increase its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) India's export of deoiled cakes during the last three years are given below :

Year	Quantity (lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1982-83 (Provisional)	10.51	149.35
1983-84 (Provisional)	9.52	146.29
1984-85 (Provisional) (April-Dec.)	5.87	88.32

(b) The prescription and enforcement of low level of tolerance of aflatoxin in compound animal feed in the Member countries of the European Economic Community and lack of demand in the international market for oil meals have adversely affected our exports.

(c) The private trade is permitted to export deoiled cake. State-wise export statistics are not maintained.

(d) A three pronged plan has been launched to counteract the falling trend of our export.

Elements of the plan are :

- Reduction in the levels of toxicity by better application of known methods of toxicity control;
- research and development of new detoxification techniques; and
- diversification of markets.

Per Capita Advances made by Nationalised Banks to Eastern States

2744. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita advances made by the nationalised banks is too less in the Eastern region as compared to the other regions;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to remove this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Region-wise per capita advances of public sector banks (S.B.I. Group + 20 Nationalised Banks) as on the last Friday of June, 1984 are set out below :

(Per capita Advances)	
Region	Rs.
Northern Region	1002
North-Eastern Region	155
Eastern Region	342
Central Region	261
Western Region	1256
Southern Region	603
All-India	587

Note : Population based upon 1981 Census.

The above table indicates that with reference to Eastern Region three regions have higher and two regions have lower per capita advances.

The credit deployment in a region depends upon factors like infrastructural facilities, availability of suitable schemes, reasonable recovery expectations, general state of the development of the economy etc. Nevertheless, the banks have been advised to ensure that wide regional disparities in credit deployment are avoided. The implementation of district credit plans and annual action plans are expected to increase the flow of credit to

deserving areas. The matter is being monitored by R.B.I., State Governments, State Level Bankers' Committee and Regional Consultative Committees.

[Translation]

Grant of Loans to Farmers by Muraitha Branch of Regional Rural Bank in Darbhanga

2745. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the farmers in village Samadhiniyan of Jale block who were granted loans for self employment (goat farm) etc. by the Muraitha Branch of Mithila Regional Rural Bank in Darbhanga district indicating the dates on which these loans were granted;

(b) the rate of interest charged on the aforesaid amount of loans ;

(c) the amount of subsidy given thereon;

(d) whether the said loans have been repaid to the bank by the farmers; and

(e) if so, the full details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). In terms of section 25(1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976 and the customs and usages prevalent amongst bankers, information relating to individual constituents of the banks cannot be disclosed.

The latest information available in respect of the outstanding advances of Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank is given in the following table :

Table

Outstanding advances by Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank as on 31-12-1984

Category of advances	(Amount in Rs. lakhs)	
	Amount	No. of Borrowal accounts
1. Short term crop loans	17.29	912
2. Term loans for agriculture and allied activities	336.13	13757
3. Rural artisans village and cottage industries	26.07	1644
4. Retail trade small business and self employment	312.59	11734
5. Consumption loans	19.51	625
Total	711.59	28672

[English]

Increase in price of Silk

2746. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of continuous increase in the price of silk used in the famous Banarasi sarees and fabrics; and

(b) if so, the arrangements being made to check this price increase and to supply silk at reasonable price and in sufficient quantity at Varanasi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government had received representations from Silk traders and manufacturers of Varanasi area about the

abnormal increase in price of silk in the local market in April-May, 1985. The position was examined by the Government and it was found that prices of silk had gone up in April-May, 1985 mainly due to temporary drop in arrival of Silk in the market as a result of poor rainfall in Karnataka, during the period. To meet the situation, the Government directed Central Silk Board to take necessary steps for import of silk as part of its price stabilization scheme for silk in the country. In the meantime, prices of silk in the local market have come down and now the availability of silk in the local market has also improved. However, no import of silk has actually been made by the Central Silk Board so far during the year.

Jewellery Project at Salt Lake in West Bengal

2747. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal informed the Centre about the State Governments willingness to set up a Jewellery Project at Salt Lake for 100 per cent export oriented jewellery complex;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Government of West Bengal in their letter dated 1st August, 1985, has informed that the State Government has decided to earmark one acre plot of land in Salt Lake area, within the 93 acre Electron Complex close to the Calcutta Airport, for setting up a 100 per cent Export Oriented Jewellery Complex.

Removal of restriction on free export of Cotton Yarn

2748. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to remove the restriction on free export of cotton yarn;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to remove the restriction; and

(c) the alternative steps likely to be taken to raise the cotton yarn export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). After the announcement of the New Textile Policy, the Government have removed the ban on export of yarn in the count groups is to 40s and have permitted its exports within a ceiling of 6 m. kgs. during 1985. Export of cotton yarn of counts 41s to 60s is allowed within a ceiling of additional 6 m. kgs. and there is no quantitative restriction on the export of cotton yarn of counts 61s and above during 1985.

[Translation]

Bank Credit locked up in Foodgrains Stock

2749. DR. A. K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Times of India" dated 27th June, 1985 to the effect that the bank credit of about Rs. 8000 crores has locked up in 3 crore tonne of foodgrains stock which has become a formidable burden on the economy and it is difficult to realise even a part of this cash either through public distribution system or through exports whereas annual interest on this money works out to about Rs. 1,000 crores and it is also feared that it will result in the rise in prices;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the measures to be taken to solve this problem; and

(c) the amount of the bank credit locked up in it during the past three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

The scheduled commercial banks food credit outstandings to public sector agencies viz., Food Corporation of India and State Governments/their agencies during the last three years as follows :

(Rs. in crores)

As on last Friday of	Amount outstanding
June, 1983	3,589
June, 1984	5,238
June, 1985	6,754

The increase in food credit in recent years is broadly commensurate with the increase in the value of foodgrains stocks. The rising trend of food credit is not a source of problem for the banks since the advances are secured and they also earn interest income.

[English]

Merger of Laxmi Commercial Bank

2750. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Bank Officers Congress has strongly opposed the proposal to merge the Laxmi Commercial Bank with Canara Bank on the ground that the notice issued to the effect by the Reserve Bank of India is not in conformity with the provision of the Banking Regulation Act and is not within the ambit of the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act for permitting the amendment of the original decision of merger;

(b) if so, Government's response to this opposition to the merger with Canara Bank and the reaction to the proposal to merge it with the Punjab National Bank; and

(c) the reasons for changing the decision to merge the Laxmi Commercial Bank with Canara Bank instead of merging it with Punjab National Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Government had received representations, including one from the Indian National Bank Officers' Association, pleading for the merger of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd. with Punjab National Bank instead of with Canara Bank.

No decision was taken by the Government to merge Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd. with Punjab National Bank, although such a proposal was considered by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. Weighing all relevant factors, it has been decided to merge the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd. with Canara Bank.

The draft scheme for amalgamation has been issued. Suggestions/objections from the transferor bank as well as from the depositors/creditors and the public have been invited. These will be considered by the RBI while finalising the scheme of amalgamation.

Shortfall in export of Tea

2751. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact there is a shortfall in regard to the export of tea during the year 1984-85;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the price of Indian tea in foreign market has come down and that there is also little demand for Indian tea, and if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures are being taken to capture the tea market in foreign countries and increase out export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Prices of tea the world over have fallen in 1985 mainly on account of over supply of poorer quality teas. In spite of this, the value of India's exports from January to June, 1985 is estimated to be higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Production of Cotton

2752. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was not able to produce sufficient quantity of cotton during the last two years to meet the internal demand of textile industry;

(b) whether Government are permitting export of cotton to deposit the shortfall in cotton production;

(c) whether Government are aware that the carryover stock of cotton this year will not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ months consumption of the textile industry; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to prevent closing down of textile mills and to make available the necessary quantity of cotton to the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). India is self-sufficient so far as overall production of cotton is concerned. However, there is at present a varietal imbalance in cotton production and consumption, namely, production of medium and short staple cotton is short of domestic requirement, whereas production of long and extra-long staple cotton is surplus over domestic demand. Government is permitting export of long and extra-long staple cotton which is surplus to our domestic requirements.

(c) According to the latest assessment of CAB, the carry over stock of cotton will be sufficient to take care of the consumption requirement for more than two months.

(d) Government are seized of the situation and appropriate steps are taken from time to time to ensure availability of cotton in adequate quantity to the textile industry.

Outstanding amounts due to NTC in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam

2753. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether N.T.C. West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam are having huge amounts outstanding due to litigations;

(b) if so, the number of such outstanding above Rs. 5 lakhs, with names of parties;

(c) the action taken for recovery of these dues; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred as legal expenses during the last three years and the outcome, in detail ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Preference of Public to Open Saving Bank Accounts in Post Offices than Banks

2754. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to disparity in the rate of interest, members of public prefer to open saving accounts in post offices rather than in the banks;

(b) the number of saving accounts opened in banks and in post offices during the year ending March, 1985;

(c) the reasons for decline in opening of accounts in banks in case there has been a decline; and

(d) the number of accounts closed in banks during the above period and reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). While the information relating to the number of accounts opened in commercial banks up to March, 1985 has not yet become available, from the available date relating to the amount of deposits in savings accounts with the scheduled commercial banks, it cannot be said that the people are not depositing their savings with the commercial banks. For example, the increase in the savings deposits with the commercial banks amounted to Rs. 2,746 crores between March, 1983 and March, 1984. Latest available figures for January, 1985 show that the increase in saving bank deposits with the commercial banks during the period January, 1984 and January, 1985 has been of the order of Rs. 4,088 crores. Corresponding to this, total amount of post office

saving deposits increased by Rs. 152 crores in 1983-84 and Rs. 158 crores between January, 1984 and January, 1985.

(d) The data reporting system does not provide information regarding Savings Bank Accounts closed during any period.

Proposal to Denationalise Bank

2755. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to denationalise banks;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of any such proposal; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Review of purchase made by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals

2756. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Supply have ordered 'in-depth' review of purchase made by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals on behalf of the Union Government and its departments; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps to ensure strict compliance with stand are in supplies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). No recent specific directive for an 'in-depth' review of the purchases made by the DGS and D has been ordered. There is a Coordination Directorate and Work Study Directorate in the DGS and D who make review of the purchase procedures and policies, delays in decisions on tenders and post contract operations and suggest remedial measures. Further a High Power Committee

on purchase set up in 1974 had gone into the purchase procedures and policies. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms have also examined and reported on certain aspects of work in the DGS and D. The Estimates Committee has also commented on certain aspects of the DGS and D purchase procedures which have been examined. The recent improvements in policies and procedures have been indicated in para 4 of Department's Annual Administration Report for the year 1984-85 (Chapter I).

Basis of fixing domestic coal quota for States

2757. SHRI SAYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the basis of fixing domestic coal quota for the States details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : The domestic coal (soft coke) quota for the different States/Union Territories, is fixed keeping in view their demand, and availability with the coal companies. The supply of soft coke to different States is made by the Coal Companies on the basis of programmes submitted by the State Governments and the allotments of wagons made by the Railways. Soft coke is also supplied to different States for movement by road.

[Translation]

Revision of royalty on coal and iron ore

2758. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a period is fixed for the revision of royalty on coal and iron ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been delay in such revision and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether States suffered financial loss due to delay in revising royalty;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have demanded that the

period for revision of royalty should be reduced; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Under Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to enhance or reduce the rates of royalty on any mineral by a notification in the Official Gazette. No enhancement in the rates of royalty, however, can take place in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of four years.

(c) to (e). The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 13-2-1981. To consider the question of further revision of royalty rate on coal, a Study Group was constituted in November 1984. This Study Group has submitted its report. No decision has been taken by the Government.

The rate of royalty on iron ore was last revised with effect from 12-6-1978. Subsequently, action for revision of royalty rate on iron ore was initiated but before final view could be taken, a Study Group was constituted in November, 1984 to consider the revision of royalty rates on most of the major minerals. This Study Group will look into the question of revision of royalty rate on iron ore also.

If the rate of royalty on any mineral is not revised in time and if the revision subsequently leads to an enhancement in its rates, it could lead to a financial loss. As the extent of enhancement of royalty rate on coal and iron ore is yet to be known, the loss on account of non-revision of their rates in time can not be assessed at this stage. However, some of the States are levying cesses which are much more than the royalty.

(f) and (g). Some of the States have demanded for the reduction of the period from 4 years to two to three years.

[English]

Schemes for Equity Participation of Workers in Corporate Sector

2759. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether two schemes for the equity participation of workers in the corporate sector are being launched by Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The details of the schemes for the equity participation of workers in the corporate sector were placed on the Table of the House on 1st August, 1985.

Supply of Yarn to Handloom Weavers

2760. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new scheme, Government are also ensuring the supply of yarn in adequate quantity to the handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the guidelines that have been issued to the States to prepare a package of incentives to implement together to strengthen the handloom sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The new Textile Policy announced in June 1985 states that special efforts will be made to ensure adequate availability of yarn to the handloom sector through the operations of the National Handloom Development Corporation, and the state level handloom agencies. The National Handloom Development Corporation set up recently, has opened yarn depots at Guwahati and Biharsharif. It is taking steps to open more yarn depots. It is also supplying yarn directly to state handloom agencies in Kerala, Rajasthan, Pondicherry etc. certain state handloom agencies are also supplying yarn to weavers and weavers cooperative societies enrolled with them. Further, under the guidelines for the implementation of Janata Cloth Scheme issued recently, the state agencies in-charge of implementing the scheme have been asked to link the production of Janata Cloth with their arrangements for supply of raw materials to the weavers.

(b) The new Textile Policy envisages a package of measures to enable the handloom to realise their full potential. In this context, regional conferences with State Governments are being held in order to review the existing schemes as well as to workout details of new schemes required to strengthen the handloom sector. In the meanwhile, guidelines have been issued regarding implementation of workshed-cum-Housing Scheme and Thrift Fund Scheme for weavers.

Survey to locate Lignite Deposits

2761. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any survey has been carried out to locate lignite deposits in the country;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to explore it ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Geological Survey for locating lignite deposits in the country are carried out by the Geological Survey of India supplemented by the work of agencies like mineral Exploration Corporation and the Departments of Mining and Geology of various State Governments. As a result of these surveys, occurrence of lignite has been established in the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Supply of Coal to States

2762. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the demand of coal of different States, State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the quota fixed by Union Government for different States, State-wise;
- (c) the actual supply to States, State-wise during the last to years, month-wise details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any gap between the

requirement and quota and between quota and actual supply;

- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the way in which Government propose to remove this gap ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b). No quota is fixed by the Union Government for different States, except in the case of Soft Coke. The supplies of coal are made both by rail and by road. The movement of coal by rail takes place within the ceiling limits fixed by the Railways for the various sponsoring authorities. The sponsoring authorities are not State-wise but industry-wise, i.e. Directorate General Technical Development for all DGTD units located all over the country, Indian Sugar Mills Association for all sugar mills, Indian Cotton Mills Federation for textile Mills, etc. State Governments have been given quotas of wagons by the Railways for sponsoring the requirements of the small scale industries located in the State. In addition to the ceiling limits fixed by the Railways for movement by rail, Coal India Limited are permitting the sponsoring authorities to recommend additional quantities which cannot be accommodated within the ceiling limits of wagons, for movement by road. These demands are sponsored by the State sponsoring authorities from time to time.

(c) State-wise despatches of coal and coal products during 1983-84 and 1984-85 to non-core sector consumers under state sponsorship is given in the Statement below. Month-wise details are not readily available. In addition coal is supplied to core sector consumers such as power Houses, steel plants etc.

(d) and (e). There is a gap in Rali Movement *vis-a-vis* demand in respect of non-core sector. This is because of the need to move coal on higher priority to the core sector consumers.

(f) Efforts are being made to narrowed down this gap by permitting supplies by road, increased wagon supply and movement to stock yards no higher priority.

Statement

Statewise despatches of coal and coal produce during 1984-85 and 1983-84 (non-core sector)

(Figs. in '000' tonnes)

State	Year	
	1984-85	1983-84
Bihar	4569	6139
W. Bengal	3561	4035
U. P.	3804	2665
Orissa	1040	865
M. P.	1878	1990
Maharashtra	2231	2130
Gujarat	2936	3278
Rajasthan	750	702
Delhi	501	531
Punjab	804	702
Haryana	1115	522
Tamil Nadu	564	302
Andhra Pradesh	527	379
Karnataka	262	466
Kerala	188	149
J. and K.	58	31
Himachal Pradesh	23	20
Chandigarh	2	5
Assam	120	103
Others	106	60

Losses in TTCI Managed Tea Gardens

2763. SHRI V. SREEVIVSA PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Trading Corporation of India managed tea gardens have been losing heavily on account of total deficiencies and improper management of tea estates;

(b) whether in spite of TTIC's heavy investments on the Chargola Tea Estate, Ratabari Assam the sale and production have not been raised during the last three years;

(c) if so, the facts thereof including the investment made each year, quantity produced, sales completed, areas of new plantation increased, profit or loss suffered during the last three years; and

(d) what further steps being proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The managed gardens incurred losses mainly because they had been rendered sick by the erstwhile owners.

(b) to (d). There has been increase in production and sale of tea in Chargola Tea Estate during post takeover period as compared to pre-take-over period.

Export of Jute

2764. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been one of the biggest exporters of jute and jute goods;

(b) if so, the exports of jute and jute goods during the last three years and the countries to which exported and the foreign exchange earned;

(c) the average annual consumption of jute and jute goods in the country;

(d) the steps taken by Government to develop the export of this item; and

(e) the foreign exchange earning trade to ensure that foreign market is not lost to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export of jute goods during the last three years is as under :

Year	Quantity	Value
Apr.-March	(000 tonnes)	(Rs. in crores)
1982-83	329.5	201.85
1983-84	233.5	163.71
1984-85	264.7	299.85

Jute goods are exported mainly to USA, Canada, Argentina, EEC Countries, USSR, and other East European Countries. Japan, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Iran, etc. During 1982-83, export of raw jute was 0.72 lakh bales valued at about Rs. 335 lakhs. Thereafter there was practically no export of raw jute during 1983-84 and 1984-85 because of shortage of raw jute in the country.

(c) The average annual consumption of raw jute is about 79 lakh bales (each bale of 180 kg.). The annual domestic consumption of jute goods is around 9-10 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e). In order to develop the export of jute goods and to retain foreign markets for jute goods for earning foreign exchange, the Government have taken following steps :

- (i) Providing higher CCS to jute carpet backing cloth and yarn on the basis of matching performance by the industry;
- (ii) Formation of STC Jute Consortium on 50 : 50 loss sharing basis for exports of Carpet Backing Cloth to North America;
- (iii) Encouraging development of exportable products through R and D efforts; and
- (iv) Constituting a new JMDC and a Jute Fund out of proceeds of jute cess to give boost to R and D efforts and export promotion.

Measures to check downward Trend of Jute Prices

2765. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the big shortfall in the raw jute crop in the last three succes-

sive years, Government have asked the Jute Corporation of India to create a buffer stock which would be useful not only in stabilising the price of raw jute at levels which are remunerative to the growers but also useful for jute mills;

(b) if so, its outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the downswing in jute prices this year has alarmed all quarters;

(d) if so, whether Government have directed the Jute Corporation of India to start a massive price support intervention as soon as jute prices at upcountry centres tend to move down below the statutory prices;

(e) the target set for the jute procurement by the Jute Corporation; and

(f) how for the Jute Corporation has been able to prevent 'distress' sale of jute in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Although a good jute crop is exceed during the current jute seasons 1985-86, it is as yet too early to make an accurate estimate of the crop. A decision on creation of a buffer stock can be taken only after an accurate estimate of the size of the jute crop becomes available.

(c) to (f). In view of the expectations of a good jute crop, the raw jute prices have started declining but they are presently reported to be higher than the minimum statutory price announced by the Government for the current jute season 1985-86. The Jute Corporation of India has been made reasonable to undertake price support operation to the extent necessary. There are 183 purchase centres run by JCI and another 240 run by the cooperative in various jute and mesta growing States which could be utilised for procurement operations as and when required. The Corporation has geared itself with men, machinery and money in all these centres to start procurement operation. However, no price support price operation has been necessary so far in West Bengal.

Export of Engineering Goods to South-East Asian Countries

2766. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export engineering goods to South-East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the name of the South East Asian countries to which engineering goods are proposed to be exported.

(c) the total amount worth engineering goods are expected to be exported by the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Engineering goods are already being exported from India to most of the South East Asian countries such as Burma, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

(c) and (d). The total amount of exports of engineering goods by the end of the Seventh Plan will depend on the demand in the importing countries.

[Translation]

Raids on the Premises of Electronics Dealers of Lajpat Rai Market, Delhi

2767. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether raids had been conducted on the premises of electronics dealers of Lajpat Rai Market in Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the value of the foreign goods seized from these dealers by Government;

(c) whether the cases against these dealers have been hushed up;

(d) if so the details thereof and the reasons for hushing up these cases;

(e) whether Government have taken a decision to conduct an inquiry against the officers who have hushed up these cases;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) On 17-1-1985, the customs authorities at Delhi conducted a general raid/search of the premises of electronic goods dealers of the old Lajpat Rai Market, Delhi.

(b) Electronics goods and other misc. goods of foreign origin valued at Rs. 3.4 lakhs were seized from ten dealers of electronic goods of old Lajpat Rai market.

(c) to (g). No case against any dealer has been hushed up. However, investigations in respect of two cases have revealed that the goods under seizure were found to have been assembled/manufactured in India out of imported components and the party produced proper documents for their licit acquisition. As such, the goods involved in those two cases were released to the parties. In respect of other cases departmental adjudication proceeding are in progress.

[English]

Complaints of Frauds and Irregularities in State Bank of Indore

2768. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received serious complaints of frauds, irregularities and malpractices in the State Bank of Indore;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank has detected 42 cases of fraudulent advances exceeding Rs. 7 crores;

(c) whether bad, doubtful and stricky debts amount to almost 20 per cent of the banks total advances; and

(d) the steps taken on proposed to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India has received a complaint alleging serious irregularities in the accounts of a Group maintained at one of the branches of State Bank of Indore at Indore. Presumably, the

references in the question are to the Report on the Inspection of State Bank of Indore carried out by the Reserve Bank of India with reference to its position as on 31st December 1983 under the Annual Appraisal Scheme. In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the affairs of public sector banks, the Inspection reports of the Reserve Bank of India are treated as confidential documents and as such their contents cannot be disclosed.

Deposit Collectors of Banks

2769. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make the Tiny Deposit Collectors of the banks full time employees of the Banks on the model of LIC Field Officers/Development Officers;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons and whether it is proposed to recruit the deposit collectors as deposit mobilisation field staff ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Deposit Collectors are only agents engaged on commission basis. They perform the work on part time basis and get commission for their work. Such persons do not fulfil the eligibility requirements for recruitment of bank employees, and as such they cannot be made, regular bank employees. There is also no proposal to recruit the Deposit Collectors as Deposit Mobilisation Field Staff.

India's Position in Export Trade

2770. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is India's position in the comity of the nations in the export trade;

(b) what was the position three years ago; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the achievement and if not, the steps taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Based on available data in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, U. N. (March 1985), India's share in world exports for export for the year 1983 works out to 0.46 per cent. The share was 0.42 per cent in 1980.

(c) The import and export policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Different instruments of policy available to Government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted when necessary. The Import and Export Policy announced in April, 1985 for a period of 3 years from April, 1985 to March, 1988 has been formulated to give a major thrust to exports as well as encourage efficient import substitution.

Delay in Payment of Rebate Amount to Handloom Sector in Kerala

2771. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many handloom societies in Kerala do not get the rebate amount in time;

(b) whether co-operative societies are being formed without workers for the sole object of securing the rebate amount ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The Government of India has not received any reports regarding Societies not getting rebates in time.

(b) Registering of cooperatives societies is under State Government's jurisdiction. However, the Central Government has received no reports about societies being formed solely for receiving Rebates.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Earnings of Foreign Exchange with Liberal Import-Export Policy

2772. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our foreign trade and foreign exchange earnings have

increased since the time Governments liberalised their export-import policy; and

(b) if so, the items in regard to exports and imports of which further facilities are proposed to be given with a view to ensure further increase in our foreign trade in the near further ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The trends in India's foreign trade during the 1980's are outlined below :

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Value in Rs. crores	% change over the previous year	Value in Rs. crores	% change over the previous year
1980-81	6710.70	+ 4.6	12549.15	+37.3
1981-82	7805.90	+16.3	13607.56	+ 8.4
1982-83	8907.75	+14.1	14355.76	+ 5.5
1983-84	9872.10	+10.8	15762.95	+ 9.8
1984-85*	11395.98	+20.4	16591.86	+ 7.9

*Provisional, updated till April, 1985 and subject to revision. The percentage growth rate for 1984-85 has been worked out over the corresponding provisional (Updated) export and import figures of Rs. 9468.25 crores and Rs. 15382.16 crores respectively for 1983-84.

(b) The import and Export Policy announced on 12-4-85 for a three-year period from April, 1985 to March, 1988, has already been laid down on the table of the House. The policy has been formulated to give a major thrust to exports as well as encourage efficient import substitution. The other measures in this regard reviewed from time to time as and when necessary.

[English]

Curb on Advertising Expenditure

2773. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to relax curbs on advertising expenditure by public sector companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In May, 1985, the Government have reviewed the instructions on advertising expenditure by public sector companies. Public Enterprises have now been advised that while unnecessary and ostentatious expenditure on supplements, advertisements etc. should be avoided, there is no restriction on incurring of expenditure on advertisements and publicity related to sales-promotion and obligatory advertisements.

Export of Wheat to South Korea

2774. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to export wheat to South Korea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether any proposal was made in this

regard during the recent visit of foreign Minister of South Korea to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has explored the possibility of export of wheat to South Korea. No contract has, however, so far been concluded.

Opening of Regional Office of State Bank of India in North Kerala

2775. **SHRI M. RAMACHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open a regional office of the State Bank of India in North Kerala to cater to the needs of people of the six districts there since presently State Bank has a regional office only at Trivandrum which is not within the easy reach for these people; and

(b) whether Government propose to locate the said regional office at Calicut in view of the increase in the number of branches consequent to the amalgamation of Cochin Bank with the State Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The State Bank of India has presently no proposal to open a Regional Office in North Kerala. The State Bank of India has reported that even after the amalgamation of the Bank of Cochin Ltd. with the Bank, there would be no operational difficulties in administering these branches through its existing Regional Office at Trivandrum which is being strengthened by posting two additional Regional Managers.

Safety of Money Deposited by Certificates Holders in Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited

2776. **SHRI BHARAT SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited invests the money deposited by the certificate holders in fixed deposit with nationalised banks and in Government securities;

(b) whether the company can withdraw the amount with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India and that too for the payment to the certificate holders only; and

(c) whether the money deposited by the certificate holders is thus fully secured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and its affairs are managed by the Board of Directors. The administration of the Company is not controlled by the Central Government or Company Law Board. The Company has been served with a notice on 10-8-1979 by the Government of West Bengal for winding up its business under Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. The company has however, obtained a stay order from Calcutta High Court and the matter is sub-judice.

The Company was inspected by Reserve Bank of India in 1978-79. The Reserve Bank was of the view that the accounting system followed by the Company did not give a "true and fair view" of the Company's state of affairs. Further, Department of Company Affairs ordered inspection of accounts of the company under section 290A of the Companies Act, 1956 on 21-12-1983. The Company however, obtained a conditional stay order from the Calcutta High Court and further appealed to the Division Bench.

According to the Company, amounts to the extent of contractual liabilities to the certificate holders arrived at by the company as per the actuarial calculations are invested in Government securities and fixed deposits with the nationalised banks.

The Reserve Bank had earlier granted, in 1973, exemption to the company from the ceiling restrictions on acceptance of deposits under RBI Directions of 1973 as applicable to miscellaneous non-banking companies. This exemption was, however, cancelled by the Reserve Bank in March, 1980. The Bank has, however, directed the company not to withdraw the securities lodged in the custody of any banks, except for repayment.

to depositors and save with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Indebtedness of Union Government

2777. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the overall indebtedness of Union Government as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding figure of 31st March, 1984;

(c) the total interest paid on such loans in the financial year 1984-85;

(d) whether in that year the entire interest was paid; and

(e) if not, what was the unpaid balance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Public Debt of the Central Government was estimated at Rs. 75350.87 crores on 31st March 1985 as compared to Rs. 65383.35 crores at the end of 1983-84.

(c) to (e). Revised estimate 1984-85 for interest payments on Public Debt was placed at Rs. 3616.63 crores on the basis of interest due. On receipt of claims from the holders of securities, the entire interest due to them is paid after scrutiny.

Relief to Pensioners of State Bank of India

2778. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the relief to pensioners of the State Bank of India has not been granted and are not brought at par with those pensioners of the Central Government;

(b) the reasons why the management of the State Bank of India has not granted upto-date instalments of relief to its pensioners; and

(c) by what time the remaining instalments of the relief will be paid to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). State Bank of India has reported that Relief to Pensioners of State Bank of India is granted in line with that to Pensioners of Central Government and accordingly relief to the SBI Pensioners upto the cost of living index 568 has already been extended in line with Government of India's instructions on the subject.

Government of India have announced on 18th July, 1985 further relief to Pensioners for the rise in cost of living (coverage index level 576). State Bank of India is expected to issue order extending the above relief to its Pensioners shortly.

Opening of New Bank Branch at Laxmapur instead of Bhawanipet by Andhra Bank Management

2779. SHRI T. BALAGOURD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Bank got licence/clearance from Reserve Bank of India for opening a New branch at Bhawanipet village, Yellareddy Block in Nazamabad District (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) whether Andhra Bank Management subsequently decided to change its original plan and opened its Branch at Laxmapur village;

(c) the reasons for Andhra Bank Management's decision to change its original plan; and

(d) under circumstances and how Reserve Bank of India agreed for such change ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has set up a Task Force consisting of representatives of Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and the concerned State Government at each of its Regional Offices. The Task Force has *inter-alia* been entrusted with the work of considering requests for substitution of the centres allotted to banks where they could not open offices due to non-availability of

infrastructural facilities, potential etc., by other suitable centres. Andhra Bank's proposal for substitution of the centre Bhawanipet by another unbanked centre Laxmapur was approved by the Task Force set up at Reserve Bank of India's Hyderabad Regional Office. The bank has opened its office at Laxmapur on 13th March, 1985.

Decline in Foreign Exchange earnings of Public Limited Companies

2780. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steady decline in net foreign exchange earning of 300 public limited companies from 1980-81 to 1983-84;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such poor performance;

(c) whether similar situation exists in respect of public sector companies;

(d) if so, the details of earnings and expenditure both in foreign exchange; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to improve foreign exchange earning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Since the names of the 300 public limited companies in respect of which information has been sought has not been indicated, it is difficult to furnish the required information.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) A number of steps have been taken to improve the competitiveness of Indian Industry and increase foreign exchange earnings from exports. In particular, the following facilities are available to the exporters to increase the foreign exchange earnings.

(i) Blanket permits are issues to the exporters for business and export

promotion on the basis of their export earnings.

(ii) Authorised Dealers have been empowered to approve small value export claims.

(iii) Exporters are allowed to export trade samples free of cost.

(iv) Setting up of 100 per cent export oriented units.

(v) Emphasis on export tie ups in many of the foreign collaborations being approved by the Government.

(vi) Introduction of Import-Export Policy for three years from 1-4-85 as against annual review in the past to enable the industry to plan production on long range basis.

(vii) Increased import of new technology/export goods for upgrading production system to improve export competitiveness.

Losses suffered by Public Sector Mining Units

2781. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector mining units have been running in heavy losses during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the performance of various public sector mining units during the last three years, unit-wise separately; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve their functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The profit/losses of five public sector mining units under the Department of Mines during the last three years is given below :

Rs. in lakhs

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
HZL	(—)1014	233.52	160
MECL	(—)355	72.86	113.93
BALCO	(—)5283	(—)3794	(—)1474
HCL	(—)2963	(—)678	(—)952
BGML	(—)272.65	(—)569.14	(—)1066.00

It will be seen from the above statement that the HZL and MECL are running in profits. The sixth undertaking, NALCO, is in the construction stage.

BALCO : The loss of BALCO, which is reducing, is mainly due to under-utilisation of capacity arising from inadequate power supply from Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB). To meet the power requirement of the company, a Captive Power Plant is being set up with U.K. Aid which is scheduled to be commissioned by December, 1987. It will ensure adequate and uninterrupted power supply. Other steps are also under consideration to improve BALCO's financial viability.

HCL : Steps are being taken to balance the facilities, improve the capacity utilisation and modernise the smelters. The company's request for capital restructuring is also under examination. An appropriate strategy for taking the undertaking out of the red is being evolved covering *inter-alia* the optimum mining mix, reduction of costs, manpower review, capital restructuring etc.

BGML : In view of the heavy losses incurred by BGME due to decline in gold production, the company has set up a Committee to undertake the study on BGML operations on 5th March, 1985. The report is expected shortly. After the report of the Committee is available, further policy guidelines about the future of BGML will be formulated and implemented.

A scheme for extraction of gold from refractory ore by flotation technique and another scheme for recovery of gold from the mill tailings by heap-leaching technique would be implemented during the 7th Five Year Plan after satisfying beyond doubt

their techno-economic viability in the context of BGML's present position.

[Translation]

Increase in Import of Food Articles

2782. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the import of food articles during the past three years;

(b) if so, the annual percentage increase in the import of these articles;

(c) whether it is proposed to go in for much higher percentage of import of food articles this year than those of the previous years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). "Food articles" on which the information has been sought by the Hon. Member is very wide term. The information on the main food products is given.

The import of wheat has declined from 39.50 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 to nil in 1984-85. 7.20 lakh tonnes of rice was imported in 1983-84 only.

Sugar was imported on in 1984-85 to the extent of 4.43 lakh tonnes.

(c) There is no proposal to import any wheat, or rice during the current year. For

the present, about 10 lakh tonnes of sugar upto September 1985 is proposed to be imported.

(d) Due to decline in sugar production, significant increase in internal consumption and to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable price to the consumers, it is proposed to import sugar during the current financial year.

The payment of remunerative cane price to the growers by the sugar factories, credit facilities to the sugar factories and incentive of higher free sale quota together with excise duty concessions to sugar factories etc. are the measures taken by the Government to increase sugar production in the country.

[English]

Import of Rice by Gulf Countries

2783. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Gulf countries have been importing rice from India,

(b) if so, since when, and, the names of those rice importing Gulf Countries;

(c) the name of the canalising agency through which rice is presently being exported; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). The current export policy provides for export of basmati rice under open general licence; a such export of basmati rice is not canalised. Export of non-basmati rice is not permitted. During 1982-83 to 1984-85 basmati rice was exported to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

Withdrawal of "Selective Credit Control Order"

2784. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank and the Union Government have been urged upon by the Central Organisation for Oil Industry

and Trade to withdraw the the 'Selective Credit Control Order' to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oilseeds and oils being sensitive essential commodities, have been kept under the purview of selective credit controls. To safeguard the interests of farmers, the Government of India has fixed support prices and the Reserve Bank arranges special concessional credit at a rate of interest of 15 per cent for public sector procurement agencies undertaking support price operations. Thus, advances to public sector agencies for price support operations are not subject to selective credit controls. Only operations other than price support operations are subject to the stipulation of selective credit controls. In April, 1985 the selective credit controls on vegetable oils was rationalised and the maximum margins were reduced from 85 per cent to 75 per cent.

Implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme in States

2785. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development studied the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme in fifteen States;

(b) if so, the names of those States;

(c) the results of the studies with regard to the crossing of poverty line by the beneficiaries of IRDP; and

(d) the order of merit in which the fifteen States stand regarding the crossing of poverty line according to NABARD studies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development had conducted a Study on the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme covering 15 States. Regarding the crossing of poverty

line these States stand as under, in order of merit :

Rank	Name of the State	Percentage of the sample beneficiaries who crossed the poverty line
1.	Punjab	86
2.	West Bengal	77
3.	Haryana	76
4.	Uttar Pradesh	72
5.	Maharashtra	65
6.	Orissa	52
7.	Gujarat	51
8.	Madhya Pradesh	49
9.	Kerala	39
10.	Karnataka	32
11.	Assam	31
12.	Bihar	31
13.	Tamil Nadu	27
14.	Andhra Pradesh	20
15.	Rajasthan	22

Cost of Various Games in the Appu Ghar in Pragti Maidan, Delhi

2786. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of various games in the Appu Ghar in Pragti Maidan, New Delhi, is beyond the reach of middle income group and lower income group families;

(b) the details of the games with their cost of ticket per head and duration of each game; and

(c) whether it is proposed to bring down the price of ticket for these games to a reasonable levels so that children of poor families can also enjoy these games ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement of details is given below.

The rates vary from Rs. 1 to Rs. 3 per head for a particular item. However, to provide access to children from lower income groups, certain rides are available free of charge. There is also a provision for package tickets at reduced rates for organised groups from educational and social welfare institutions.

(c) There is no proposal to reduce the rates since free rides are being provided to children belonging to economically weaker sections, invalid and spastic children and blind children provided that they come in groups sponsored by their schools or social welfare organisations.

Statement

Details of games with cost of ticket per head/duration in Appu Ghar

S. No.	Rides/Games	Rates (Rs.)	Duration in Minutes
1	2	3	4
1.	Appu Merry-go-round	1.00	2 mt.
2.	Brūco Baby Train	1.00	2 „
3.	Coin operated baby figures	1.00	1 „
4.	Mini Enterprise	2.00	2 „
5.	Cinema 2000	3.00	15 „

1	2	3	4
6. Dragon Roller Coaster		3.00	35 sec.
7. Tele Combat		3.00	2.30 mts.
8. Laughing clown		1.00	1 mt.
9. Shooting Gallery		2.00	5 „
10. Muscle Man		2.00	1 „
11. Horror Figures		2.00	5 „
12. Bumper Boats		3.00	
13. Ball Room		1.00	
14. Striking cars		2.00	3 mt.
15. Punch Ball		1.00	1 „
16. Strikers		1.00	1 „

Package Deals

Group of Children from Educational Institutions

- (a) Children upto 8 years of age — 5 per head
 (b) Children above 8 years of age — 10 per head

Losses suffered by Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited

2787. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
 SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
 SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that Karnataka Government owned Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi, Karnataka is suffering losses worth crores of rupees annually for the last several years;

(b) whether he has recently asked Tatas to save the Karnataka owned unit;

(c) if so, whether Tatas have shown any interest in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited is suffering losses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Consumption of Man Made Fibre and Filament Yarn

2788. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the increase in consumption of man made fibres and filament yarn arising out of the new textile policy; and

(b) whether in the event of increase in the consumption industrial licencing policy be relaxed to meet with this added demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The policy contemplates increase in the production as well as consumption of man-made fibre and filament yarn.

(b) Such matters are considered on merits of each case as and when necessary under the licensing policy.

**Ban on Recruitment in Ministries/
Departments of Union Government**

2789. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Ministries and Departments of the Union Government propose to continue the ban on future recruitment in all Ministries and Departments of the Union Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that computers have been installed in offices of all Ministries and Departments of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the names of Ministries/Departments where such computers have been installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Instructions issued in January, 1984 advising Ministries/Departments of the Government of India not to fill up vacancies except where advanced recruitment action had already been taken stand extended until further orders.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Damage to Fossils discovered in Madhya Pradesh

2790. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that irreparable damage has been caused to the priceless treasure of 60 million-year-old fossils discovered in the tribal districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether this damage is due to apathy and negligence shown by the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). A case of theft was registered in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh some years back in connection with the removal of fossils. Government have no report of damage having been caused to fossils due to

any apathy or negligence shown by the State Government.

(c) Geological Survey of India has established several fossil parks in the country including one at Manendragarh in Madhya Pradesh. The State Government has been approached to set up such parks in other parts of the State also which are particularly rich in fossil occurrence. The matter is being pursued.

**Losses suffered by Government due to
Illegal Mining**

2791. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are suffering loss to the tune of crores of rupees every year due to illegal mining of coal being carried out under the shadow of terror created by Mafia gang in different mine-areas in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the mine area-wise number of workers with Mafia record engaged in illegal mining of coal (in Dhanbad and other places) during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and upto 30th June, 1985 year-wise;

(c) the measures taken so far by Government to stop illegal mining of coal and to check the activities of the persons of Mafia gangs and whether these measures have been successful; and

(d) if the reply to the part (c) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to launch a large scale operation against Mafia gangs ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended in 1976 prohibiting any person other than those authorised by the Act, to carry on coal mining in India in any form and terminating all leases relating to winning or mining of coal granted in favour of private parties except those engaged in production of iron and steel. Illegal coal mining was also made a cognizable offence and is punishable with an imprisonment for a term extending to three years and fine extending to Rs. 20,000. The Supreme Court in their judgements dated 11-4-1980

and 7-5-1980 have upheld the vires of these provisions.

After these judgements, illegal mining of coal has been curbed to a great extent. However, the coal belt is vast and certain persons at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal coal extraction. As the illegal coal mining is done sporadically and stealthily, no estimate of such activities can precisely be made.

State Governments and coal companies have been asked to take concerted action against the offenders. The State Govts. have issued instructions to the District authorities to take punitive and preventive action under the Act read with Indian Penal Code. The coal companies have also been directed to report to the authorities concerned as and when illegal extraction of coal is detected.

Deficit in Budget for 1985-86

2792. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budgetary deficit for 1985-86 has increased since the presentation of budget;

(b) if so, whether Government have estimated this gap which has increased during the past three months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the major causes that has given rise to widen the budgetary gap ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The deficit shown in the Budget for 1985-86 is the estimated year-end deficit. There is no day-to-day correlation of receipts and expenditure of Central Government and there is no definite quantitative relationship between deficit at any particular point of time during the year and the likely year-end deficit. A fresh estimate of the year-end deficit is made at the revised estimate stage.

[*Translation*]

Survey of Coal reserves near Mand Kachar Areas in Madhya Pradesh

2793. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for locating coal reserves near Mand Kachar areas in Madhya Pradesh was taken up by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the position in regard to the availability of coal; and

(c) whether the Mand Thermal Power Station will be given preference over others in regard to supply of the coal from this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Benefits of Group Insurance Scheme to Junior Accounts Officers and Assistants

2794. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 5104 on the 3rd May, 1985 regarding the benefits of Group Insurance Scheme to Junior Accounts Officer *vis-a-vis* Assistants and state :

(a) the different groups of Government servants under the C. C. S. (CCA) Rules; and

(b) the criteria basis on which these classifications (groups) are made or on what basis Government servants are classified (Grouped) under the C. C. S. (CCA) Rules and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 provide for grouping Government servants into four groups, *viz.*, Group 'A', Group 'B', Group 'C' and Group 'D'.

(b) Criteria/basis for these classifications are contained in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms Notification No. 21/2/74-Estt. (D), dated the 11th November, 1975 is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1375/85]

[English]

Demands of Employees of Export Promotion Councils

2795. SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the Export Promotion Councils have submitted recently to Government any charter of their demands;

(b) if so, what are the salient points of the said charter;

(c) Government's thinking on the said charter of demands;

(d) whether any negotiation between the parties is expected soon on the said charter of demands;

(e) if so, by what time; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the same in details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Representations indicating the Charter of demands on behalf of the Federation of Employees of all Export Promotion Councils have been received from its President, Shri K. Ramamurthy, Member of Parliament.

(b) The salient points are :—

- (i) Revision of pay scales/DA/HRA/CCA;
- (ii) Time-scale promotions;
- (iii) Ex-gratia at 20%;
- (iv) Recognition of Federation;
- (v) Constitution of permanent negotiating machinery;
- (vi) Non-interference of M.D.A.

(c) to (f). These demands have been examined time and again. The Export Promotion Councils are autonomous bodies registered under the Indian Companies Act/Societies Registration Act. These are independence organisations with separate entities and administered by their respective Managing Committees. The problems of the employees have, there, necessarily to be

discussed by the employees with the management of the respective Councils. In these circumstance, recognition of the Federation of different Councils by the Government is not consider necessary. In view of this the question of constitution of permanent negotiating machinery does not arises.

Realisation of Rs. 109 crores from M/s. I.T.C. Limited

2796. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have not realised the whole amount of Rs. 109 crores from M/s. I. T. C. Limited even after the Supreme Court gave the judgement in 1983; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of each of the thirty three cases pending adjudication against I.T.C. Limited thereof relating to Excise Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Bombay Tyres International Limited in October, 1983 laid down the principles regarding computation of the assessable value of excisable goods under section 4 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. The Supreme Court had, however, ordered that individual appeals, writ petitions, special leave petitions and transferred cases would be listed for appropriate orders in the light of that judgment. The cases of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. are pending in the Supreme Court/High Courts for final decisions. The exact amount of central excise duty due from the Company on account of revision of assessable value disallowing 'post manufacturing expenses' will be known only after the decision of the Courts. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. have so far paid Rs. 21 crores towards their liability on post manufacturing expenses on an *ad hoc* basis.

(c) The 33 Show Cause Notices pending adjudication against M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. are pertaining to issues such as computation of the assessable value, classification of products like slides, hinges, sleeves and shells, cut tobacco etc. and general violation of the provisions of Central Excise Rules. The

details of each of the 33 cases are not readily available.

[*Translation*]

Branches of Indian Overseas Bank in Foreign Countries

2797. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Indian Overseas Bank functioning in foreign countries, the number of officers working in them and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe officers among them; and

(b) the criteria adopted for sending Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officers in the banks located abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that at present 52 expatriate officers including 4 Executives are working in all the 12 branches of bank in foreign countries; of these one Scheduled Caste Officer is posted abroad at Hong Kong as Assistant Accountant.

(b) The criteria, for posting abroad, as applicable to general category officers is applicable to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Officers also. Eligible Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Officers are considered along with others for such postings.

[*English*]

Setting up of Apex Body in States of extend Financial Assistance to Handloom Weavers

2798. SHRI S. M. BHATTFM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals are under consideration for setting up an apex body in each State for extending financial assistance and credit facilities to handloom weavers;

(b) number of handloom weaver families in each State in the country;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted or assessment made about the object

poverty conditions of the handloom weavers; and

(d) the steps taken to extend beneficial programmes for improving their economical status ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) State-wise information regarding the number of weaver families is not available. However, a statement showing the number of looms in different States is given below.

(c) No survey in the past has been conducted by Government of India. However, a census on an All India basis is being planned.

(d) The development schemes, aimed at improving the economic status of weavers, consist of creation of an organisational infrastructure in the form of co-operatives/corporations and providing assistance to them, encouragement to the weaving of blended fabrics, modernisation assistance, creation of processing facilities to improve the finish of handloom products etc. Besides, social security schemes like Thrift Funds Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme have been finalised.

Statement

Distribution of Looms

(in '000s)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of looms
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	529
2.	Assam	200*
3.	Bihar	100
4.	Gujarat	20
5.	Haryana	41
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	37
8.	Karnataka	103

1	2	3	1	2	3
9.	Kerala	95	29.	Mizoram	N.A.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	33	30.	Lakshdweep	N.A.
11.	Maharashtra	80	31.	Pondicherry	4
12.	Manipur	100*	Total :		3020
13.	Meghalaya	5*	* Excludes domestic looms amounting to nearly 8 lakhs in all.		
14.	Nagaland	20*	[Translation]		
15.	Orissa	105	Loss of property suffered by Nationalised Banks due to Riots in Gujarat		
16.	Punjab	21	2799. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :		
17.	Rajasthan	144	(a) the loss of the property of nationalised banks suffered from March 1985 to June 1985 as a result of anti-reservation agitation and communal riots in Gujarat indicating details thereof; and		
18.	Sikkim	N.A.	(b) the nature and the details of the loss suffered by each nationalised bank ?		
19.	Tamil Nadu	556	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Some of the nationalised banks' branches have suffered substantial losses in Gujarat as a result of agitation and riots in the State. The losses are mainly due to damage to the furniture and fixtures on account of fire and stone throwing at the banks' premises. While complete details are yet to become available, the details of the losses suffered by each nationalised bank, as per information so far available with the Reserve Bank of India, are as follows :		
20.	Tripura	100			
21.	Uttar Pradesh	509			
22.	West Bengal	212			
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	N.A.			
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.A.			
25.	Chandigarh	N.A.			
26.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	N.A.			
27.	Delhi	5			
28.	Goa Daman and Diu	N.A.			

Name of the Bank	Name of the branch affected and District	Approximate estimates of quantum of loss Rs.
1	2	3
State Bank of Saurashtra	1. Paldi (Ahmedabad)	60,000
	2. Ayo Jannagar (Ahmedabad)	6,000

1	2	3
	3. Insanpur (Ahmedabad)	Negligible
Canara Bank	1. Sabarmati	} Not available
	2. Harinagar	
	3. Old Sachivalaya	
Bank of Maharashtra	1. Navrangpura	12,000
	2. Gatlodia	25,000
United Commercial Bank	1. St. Xavier's High School (Ahmedabad)	750
	2. Delhi Darwaja	1,000
Bank of India	1. Naranpura (Ahmedabad)	40,000
	2. Maninagar (Ahmedabad)	1,00,000
	3. Paldi (Ahmedabad)	2,75,000
	4. Rampura (Surat)	40,000
Dena Bank	1. Maninagar (West) (Ahmedabad)	1,50,000
	2. Gomtipur (Ahmedabad)	5,000
	3. Mangal Bazar (Baroda)	1,500
	4. Lalubhai Chakla (Baroda)	3,000
	5. Dharangadhra (Bhavnagar)	2,500
Union Bank of India	1. Naroda (Ahmedabad)	35,000 to 50,000
	2. Deesa (Banaskantha)	25,000 to 35,000
	3. Vasna (Ahmedabad)	Nominal
	4. Rampura (Surat)	2,000 to 4,000
	5. Haripura (Surat)	50,000 to 55,000
Bank of Baroda	1. Sabarmati (Ahmedabad)	3,50,000
	2. Bhairavnath Road Maninagar (Ahmedabad)	74,132
	3. Sidhpur (Mehsana)	2,500
	4. Visnagar Main (Mehsana)	1,000
	5. Ambaliasan	50
	6. Santhpipli (Kaira)	18,060
	7. Regional Office Anand	4,000
Central Bank of India	1. Naranpura	15,000
	2. Kankariya	1,50,000
	3. Nava Wadaj (Ahmedabad)	45,000

[English]

Export of Steel

2800. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**
Will the Minister of **STEEL, MINES AND COAL** be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to whom the steel was exported from India during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof, year-wise and country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Year-wise, country-wise details of exports of steel during last three years are given below :

Quantity : Tonnes
FOB value : Rs. million

Country	Exports During					
	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value	Qty.	Value
Australia	23 Nos.*	0.09	14 Nos.*	0.06		
China	—	—			17570	33.26
Egypt	—	—	9776	19.88	19756	49.00
Hongkong	—	—			38048	86.52
Japan	10975	19.99	14613	32.56	—	—
Norway	3	0.03				
Phillipines	3	0.05				
Tanzania	19	0.29	24	0.26		
USA	32	0.25				
USSR					78038	175.39
Vietnam	503 Nos.**	2.23	495 Nos.**	2.85		

*Axles

**Tyres

Internal Demand and Production of Rubber

2801. **SHRI T. BASHEER :**
PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
PROF. K. V. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the production of rubber in India during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise;

(b) the internal demand for rubber during the last three years;

(c) the shortfall or surplus during the last three years;

(d) the area presently under rubber cultivation and production per hectare;

(e) price of rubber in Indian presently;

(f) the price during the last three years and the price in international market during the same period, year-wise;

(g) the quantity of rubber imported during the last three years, year-wise and the quantity proposed to be imported now; and

(h) whether any memorandum had been received in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The production of rubber in India during the last three-years, year-wise and State-wise is as under :

(in Tonnes)

State	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Kerala	1,52,662	1,62,212	1,72,092*
Tamil Nadu	9,700	9,736	10,603*
Karnataka	3,070	2,785	3,095*
Others	418	547	660*
Total	1,65,850	1,75,280	1,86,450

*Provisional.

(b) The internal demand for rubber during the last three years has been as under :

(in Rs. per quintal)

(In tonnes)		Year	Kottayam Lot Rubber	RMA-4	Kualalumpur (Malaysia) RSS-4
Year	Consumption				
1982-83	1,95,545	1982-83	1409	1440	753
1983-84	2,09,480	1983-84	1708	1751	1083
1984-85	2,17,510	1984-85	1587	1655	927

(c) Shortfall during the last three years was as follows :

(g) The quantity of rubber imported during the last three years and proposed to be imported now are as follows :

	(Tonnes)
1982-83	30,000
1983-84	34,000
1984-85	31,000

Year	Imported by STC (Tonnes)
1982-83	31659
1983-84	32175
1984-85	32408
1985-86	29000
	(Proposed)

(d) Area under rubber at the end of 1984-85 is estimated to be 3.20 lakh hectares and yield per hectare during 1984-85 is estimated at 890 kgs.

(e) Average price of rubber in India in July 1985 was as follows :

Lot Rubber	Rs. 1692 per Quintal
RMA-4	Rs. 1744 per Quintal

(f) Average prices of natural rubber in India and international market during the last three years were as follows :

(h) Government have received representations regarding ban on import of natural rubber. From the figures given above, it is evident that production of natural rubber is not commensurate with its demand and, therefore, natural rubber has to be imported to meet the demand supply gap.

India's participation in International Trade Fair Abroad

2802. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARHI :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details regarding the number and names of the foreign countries in which India participated in International Trade Fairs during the last two years upto-date;

(b) the details regarding the main objectives of participation in these specifically commodity trade fairs; and

(c) fair-wise and country-wise, as well as year-wise earning of foreign exchange if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1376-85].

(b) The objectives of participation in fairs abroad were to develop existing exports, explore possibilities of introducing new items, and publicise India's capabilities in industrial, technological, managerial and scientific fields.

Rejection of Applications Seeking Financial Assistance from Export Import Bank

2803. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Import Bank of India has rejected 50 per cent applications from the export oriented units seeking direct and indirect financial assistance on concessional terms;

(b) the criteria adopted for sanctioning the loan and also rejecting the applications; and

(c) the number of such applications from Andhra Pradesh sanctioned/rejected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The scheme stipulates certain norms like debt equity ratio of 1.5:1 and promoters' contribution of at least 20% of project cost. Besides, applicants have to establish technical, economic, financial and marketing viability of their projects. For projects costing less than Rs. 2 crores, the applications have to be considered by the commercial banks while Exim Bank can provide refinance to the banks.

(c) Of the 3 applications received from Andhra Pradesh, one was withdrawn by the promoters and another was for a project whose cost was less than Rs. 2 crores and the promoters have been advised that Exim Bank would consider refinance through the commercial banks. The third one was rejected.

Demand for Ban on Import of Rubber by Rubber Growers of Kerala

2804. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rubber growers of Kerala have urged the Government to put a ban on import of rubber; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Domestic production of natural is not sufficient to meet the demand. The demand and supply position of natural rubber is reviewed from time to time. Import of natural rubber is limited to the actual demand-supply gap.

Employment to Local People in NALCO and BALCO, Orissa

2805. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) total number of local people so far given employment in alumina plant at Daman jodi, Orissa by the National Aluminium Company on the basis of the Bureau of Public Enterprises guidelines;

(b) whether the procedure has been followed in such a way by the authority by which the entire Koraput District is covered for providing different categories of employment in the plant;

(c) if so, the procedure framed and intimated to concerned authority thereof; and

(d) whether the Bharat Aluminium Company also followed the same line of procedure to provide the local population an ample opportunity in the employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) 492 persons in different categories had been employed in Damanjodi sector of National Aluminium Company on the basis of the Bureau of Public Enterprises guidelines. As a matter of Government policy, State-wise and District-wise distribution of employees is not maintained in the interest of national integration.

(b) and (c). For all posts which carries a scale of pay, the maximum of which does not exceed Rs. 800 (revised to Rs. 1250 per month recently), vacancies are invariably notified to the Local Employment Exchange located at Koraput, and candidates are selected from amongst those sponsored by it. Whenever the Koraput Employment Exchange issues "Non-availability certificate" for any post, vacancies are notified to the Special Employment Exchange for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped, located at Bhubaneswar, and the Zilla Rajya Sainik Board for Ex-servicemen and dependents of those who were killed in Action. In the case of unskilled workers, priority has been accorded to the nominee of the families whose lands and houses have been acquired or are likely to be acquired for setting up the Plant. For other categories of staff like Supervisor and Executive cadres, vacancies are normally advertised in Local Dailies and National Dailies. Periodical returns on the position of employment are sent to the Employment Exchange at Koraput.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Coal Stock with Coal India Limited

2806. SHRI K. MADHAV REDDI :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the stock of coal with Coal India Ltd., at the end of 1984-85 as compared to the stocks at the end of corresponding period of 1983-84 and the stock of coal as on 1st June, 1985;

(b) whether any stocks are lying at the pit heads/rail heads as on 1st June, 1985 waiting to be consigned to thermal power plants etc; and

(c) if so, the details of the stocks and the reasons for delay in moving coal to its ultimate destination ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The stock of coal with Coal India Limited at the end of 1984-85 as compared to the stocks at the end of corresponding period of 1983-84 and the stock of coal as on 1st June, 1985 is given as under :

(Figs. in million tonnes)

Pithead stock in CIL

As on 31-3-1985	As on 31-3-1984	As on 1-6-1985
29.42	21.29	25.07

(b) and (c). The stock of coal lying at the rail head collieries of CIL as on 1-6-1985 was 1,58,39,000 tonnes. The average daily loading from the collieries of CIL during the period April-July, 1985 works out to be about 2,39,980 tonnes. Generally one week's requirements are being maintained at the rail heads for rail loading subject to the availability of space and transport.

The reasons for inadequate movement by rail are as under :

- (i) Inadequate availability of wagons and rail capacity;
- (ii) Inadequate releases of wagons by the consumers;
- (iii) Inadequate availability of coal in certain collieries.

Power Station and other consumers have been requested to release the wagons promptly so that increased loading is possible. Efforts are being made to step up 'despatches of coal particularly from areas where there are heavy stocks. Railways are being requested to supply wagons as per the targets fixed by the Government. Similarly, coal companies have been asked to improve loading and offeres of coal for despatch. Weekly meetings of officers of Railways and Coal Companies are also being held at Calcutta to review position of loading and despatch of coal.

Increase in production of Saleable Steel

2807. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether five intergrated steel plants under Steel Authority of India Ltd. have registered 7.3 per cent increase in production of saleable steel during the first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an increase; and

(c) whether this is going to be maintained and improved still further ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for increased production are better technological management, consistent use of imported coal in some plants and commissioning of some of the expansion units at Bhilai Steel Plant.

(c) Yes, Sir. The production plan for 1985-86 for saleable steel of the Steel Authority of India Limited Plants (including Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited) envisages an increase of 73% over the production in 1984-85 as indicated below :

	(million tonnes)
Production Plan for 1895-86	5.96
Production during 1984-85	5.28
% increase over 1984-85	13%

[Translation]

Detonators missing from Western Coalfields

2808. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that detonators from Western Coalfields are missing;

(b) the names of the persons found guilty therefor and the action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) A shortage of Detonators has been reported at the Sukri colliery of Western coalfields Limited.

(b) The Magazine-in-charge, Shri Kunthunath Jain, has been arrested and has been placed under suspension. The chowkidar of the Magazine has also been suspended and chargesheeted.

(c) The coal companies have been directed to guard explosives and detonators carefully and to conduct regular verification of stocks.

Value of Seized Smuggled Goods

2809. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value and the details of the smuggled goods seized during the last six months;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the new steps taken by the Government to check smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Details of major items of smuggled goods seized and the number of persons arrested under the Customs Act, in connection with smuggling activities during the period January to June, 1985 are given below :

	(Value : Rs. in crores)
Gold	28.45
Watches	3.78
Synthetic Fabrics	9.22
Indian/Foreign currency	3.45
Others	40.77
	<u>85.67</u>

No. of persons arrested : 1300*

(*Figures are provisional)

(c) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department has been reinforced in terms of manpower and

equipment. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures, both short-term and long-term are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The trends of smuggling and seizures are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action, as warranted.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

2810. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Foreign Exchange Reserve stood as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) the Foreign Exchange Reserve stood as on 31 March, 1984;

(c) whether the Reserve has gone up or gone down; and

(d) if gone down, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 5497.85 crores on 31st March, 1984 went up by Rs. 1318.93 crores to Rs. 6816.78 crores as on 31st March, 1985.

(d) Does not arise.

Steps to Encourage Joint Sector/Private Sector Units in Steel Industry

2811. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken by his Ministry to encourage Joint sector/private sector units of medium size steel industry to ensure that the gap in steel production is met and the country is self-reliant in steel over the next few years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is considered desirable especially when there is shortage of funds in the public sector;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present to set up medium size units in steel industry in the Joint Sector with the participation of Government of India.

The industrial licensing policy for steel industry provides scope for private sector/joint sector (State Governments and private sector) to set up medium size units in the steel industry.

Efforts are being made to attain self-sufficiency by increasing domestic production of steel through better capacity utilisation, modernisation/technological upgradation of the existing steel plants, expansion of existing steel plants and by setting up of new steel making capacity.

Value of Seizures Trade by Central Board of Excise and Customs

2812. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of anti-smuggling seizure made by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in the first two quarters of this year; and

(b) how do they compare with the figures of last year of the corresponding period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The value of smuggled goods seized under the Customs Act during the first and second quarters of 1985 and the corresponding periods of 1984, is given below :

Total value of seizures (Rs. in crores)

	1984	1985*
First quarter	28.39	47.38
Second quarter	22.71	38.29

*Figures are provisional.

Decision to Reduce Aid to India by UK and Japan

2813. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K. and Japan have taken a decision to reduce aid to India;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof;

(c) the projects that will likely to be affected due to this cut;

(d) whether India have requested both the countries to reconsider their decision;

(e) if not, the main reasons thereof; and

(f) the alternative measures being considered in view of their reduction in aid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Government of India have not received any advice from UK or Japan about any decision to reduce aid to India.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

Non-Charging of Interest on Money Borrowed from Nationalised Banks

2814. SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several lakhs of rupees are being lost by the nationalised banks due to violation of the Reserve Bank of India Rules by non-charging quarterly interest on money borrowed from them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken to make the nationalised banks to stick to rules and recover the charges; and

(d) any penal action that has been taken in this regard against the erring bank officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (d). It is not correct to say that

lakhs of rupees are lost by nationalised banks due to violation of Reserve Bank's directives. In terms of Reserve Bank's directive on interest rates on advances, banks are permitted to charge interest at quarterly or longer rests. However, scheduled commercial banks including public sector banks, generally charge interest at quarterly rest except when (a) an advance is an agricultural advance and the outstanding loan/installment has not become overdue or (b) concerned unit is a stick unit under an approved nursing programme or (c) in case of compromise settlements.

Banks have a system of internal audit as also statutory audit. The aspect regarding charging of interest at appropriate rates and intervals is looked into by the banks' auditors and internal inspectors and deficiencies noticed, if any, are taken up for rectification. Similarly, during the course of inspections of banks by the Reserve Bank, if such instances are noticed, they are brought to the notice of banks for necessary corrective action. Banks are expected to take suitable action against the erring bank officials.

Raids on Offices of Share Brokers in Bombay

2815. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether over twenty sharebrokers offices housed in Bombay Stock Exchange Building were raided recently by the income-tax authorities;

(b) if so, whether a number of offices of sharebrokers were sealed; and

(c) the details of the offices of sharebrokers sealed and the total amount of cash found in the search ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Offices of only five share brokers housed in Bombay Stock Exchange Building were searched on 4-7-1985 by the Income-tax authorities. Out of these, two offices were sealed on 4-7-1985 which were opened subsequently and search completed. The details of offices sealed are as under :

(i) Devi Prasad Goenka, 208, Stock Exchange Building, Dalal Street, Bombay.

(ii) Satyanarayan Khetan, Cabin No. 15, 5th floor, Stock Exchange Building, Dalal Street, Bombay.

During the search of office premises of share brokers, cash amounting to Rs. 97,593 was found.

Opening of a Steel Plant in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

2816. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to find out the feasibility of opening a steel plant; and

(b) if so, the finding thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). In May, 1975 MECON had submitted a feasibility report to SAIL for an integrated steel plant of 2.5 million tonnes capacity based on iron ore deposits at Surajgarh in Maharashtra. This matter was not pursued.

Reservation and Workers Capital Issue

2817. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sanction for capital issues will now be subject to five per cent of the issue being reserved for staff and workers of the firm;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been accepted by the trade unions; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to implement workers' share holding in industries in which they are working ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). As per guidelines placed on the Table of the House on 1st August, 1985 companies will be advised that while proposing a further issue of capital to the

Controller of Capital Issues, they should reserve 5% of the further issue for their employees/workers on an equitable basis. The guidelines have been generally welcomed.

[Translation]

Export of Cotton Garments

2818. DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cotton garments has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to increase the export of cotton garments further;

(d) if so, to what extent and the efforts being made in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the type of the clothes which have contributed to this increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exports of cotton garments have increased by 34.7% in value terms in 1984 as compared to 1983.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). A higher target of exports for garments has been fixed for 1985-86. The following are the main steps taken to increase the exports of garments.

(i) With effect from 1st January, 1984 rates of CCS have been revised upwards for certain categories of readymade garments.

(ii) 114 garment and hosiery making machines have been placed on OGL. 97 of these machines are allowed to be imported on payment of concessional duty.

(iii) Entitlement under REP licence for import of essential inputs is permitted. Essential are also

permitted to be imported under the Advance Licensing Scheme for export production.

(iv) A scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones is in operation which includes several textile items including readymade garments.

(v) Inspection procedure for readymade garments meant for exports have been simplified.

(vi) Government has been sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in International Fairs/Exhibitions etc., in order to increase and diversity exports.

(f) Fashion garments have mainly contributed to this increase.

[English]

Company given clearance for Bottling Machinery

2819. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2952 on 12th April, 1985 regarding special import licence issued to companies affected in November, 1984 disturbances in Delhi and state :

(a) whether the DGTD indigenous clearance given for the bottling machinery of Rs. 2.4. crores for Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd.,

(b) whether the bottling machines damaged are not made in India;

(c) if so, the names of companies of which Soft Drink Machinery made;

(d) whether Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd., has bought and installed any machinery; and

(e) if not, whether there has been any reduction in sales and if so, to what extent and in which month ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). M/s. Mohan Machines, Okhla, New Delhi are the only manufacturers of complete Bottling Plants as reported by the D.G.T.D.

(d) So far M/s. Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd., have not intimated about import/installation of the machinery permitted for import, to their sponsoring authority.

(e) Figures of sales as per report from Superintendent of Central Excise for the period April 1984 to July 1984 and April 1985 to July 1985 are as per statements I and II given below :

Statement I

Figures of production and sales of Ms. Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd. as furnished by Central Excise Department MOR 25

Period	Production in Bottles	Sales in Bottles	Period	Production in Bottles	Sales in Bottles
April, 1984	8242885	8245285	April, 1985	8312618	8307312
May, 1984	9442907	9452603	May, 1985	8054768	8039160
June, 1984	7326933	7294701	June, 1985	7891611	7869240
July, 1984	5777540	5803437	July, 1985	Statement has not been received	

Note : The figures of Production and Sale includes Soda as well. These figures are for MOR 25.

Statement II

Figures of Production and Sales of M/s. Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Limited as furnished by Central Excise Department MOR 27

Period	Production in Bottles	Sales in Bottles (Clearance)	Period	Production in Bottles	Sales in Bottles (Clearance)
April, 1984	16100516 Bottles Nil pro- duction of Compa Cola in Cans	16206984 Bottles + 6732 Campa Cola in Cans	April, 1985	16288295 Bottles Nil pro- duction of Campa Cola Cans	16210128 Bottles + 105 Comp Cola Cans
May, 1984	22518216 Bottles + 1086 Campa Cola Cans	22405680 Bottles + 2533 Campa Cola Cans	May, 1985	20755930 Bottles Nil Cans	20674680 Bottles Nil Cans
June, 1984	18150337 Bottles + 5828 Campa Cola Cans	18087408 Bottles + 3569 Campa Cola in Cans	June, 1985	19618764 Bottles + 23324 Campa Cola in Cans	19530720 Bottles + 11596 Cans
July, 1984	13279028 Bottles + 17443 Campa Cola in Cans	13188120 Bottles + 14775 Campa Cola in Cans	July, 1985	Statement has not been received.	

Note : The figures of production and sales also includes Soda Special as well. These figures are for MOR 27.

Incentives for Exporters

2820. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether 100 per cent export oriented
units have been allowed to retain 50 per cent
of their annual profits tax free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other incentives so far
given to 100 per cent export oriented units;
and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange
earned and spent for imports of plant and
machinery etc. by such units in the years
1980-84 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to
provisions of Section 80 HHC of the Income-

tax Act, 1961 as amended by Finance Act,
1985 (with effect from 1-4-1986, applicable
to assessments for 1986-87 and subsequent
years) 100 per cent export oriented units
will be entitled for a deduction not exceeding
50% of the profits derived from the export of
such goods or merchandise. This deduction is
subject to the conditions that the sale
proceeds of such goods or merchandise
exported out of India, are receivable in
convertible foreign exchange and the amount
of deduction is credited to a reserve account
to be utilised for the purposes of the business
of the assessee.

(c) Other incentives and facilities given
to 100 per cent export oriented units are
indicated in the statement below.

(d) Yearwise figures of imports of capital
goods and raw material etc., and exports
by 100 per cent export oriented units in
production and exporting during the last four
financial years are given below :

Year	Imports			Production	Exports
	Capital Goods	Raw Material	Total (Value in Rs. crores)		
1981-82	15.58	0.19	15.77	4.64	10.41
1982-83	15.99	15.18	31.17	107.94	37.86
1983-84	50.30	29.30	79.60	140.06	58.16
1984-85	19.68	31.23	50.91	117.51	100.12
total	101.55	75.90	177.45	370.15	206.55

Note : The figures for 1980-81 are not readily available.

Statement

Other Incentives/Facilities given to 100% Export Oriented Units

Main Facilities

- (1) 100% EOUs can import duty free capital goods, raw materials, components consumables, spares, material handling equipments namely fork lifts and overhead cranes, sample/prototypes not exceeding two in number of each type of articles covered by the manufacturing activity, drawing/blue prints, technical maps and charts relating to the manufacturing activity.
- (2) Finished products shall be exempt from excise and other central levies.
- (3) Indigenously procured capital goods, components and raw materials will be allowed without payment of central excise duty.
- (4) MRTP/FERA companies shall be allowed to set up units under the scheme.
- (5) The conditions of dilution of foreign equity as stipulated by the Department of Economic Affairs will not be applicable in the case of units approved under the scheme of 100% EOUs.

- (6) Permitted level of rejects can be sold in the domestic tariff area, after payment of duties, etc.

- (7) Upto 25% of the production can be supplied in the home market provided it is consistent with import policy and subject to licences and payment of duties on the goods.

- (8) Approved 100% EOUs can sell their products to domestic projects under global tender conditions.

Other facilities

- (1) Green Cards are issued to 100% EOUs which entitle them to get priority treatment from various Central/State Government agencies.
- (2) Approved 100% EOUs have been categorised in Group I as 'Essential Consumers' for supply of power.
- (3) Railway Board has classified all export traffic as priority 'B' of the Preferential Traffic Schedule. In case such traffic is not cleared within 5 days of placement of demand the priority shall be upgraded to 'A' so that it is cleared without delay.
- (4) For units approved under the scheme of 100% EOUs which do not have telephone/telex connection

either at Head Office or at the nominated location, the Ministry of Communications had agreed to expeditiously sanction one temporary telephone/telex connection on the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce.

- (5) The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions that applications for release of foreign exchange received from green card holding 100% EOUs would be handled on a priority basis and disposed of expeditiously within a maximum of four working days.
- (6) In the matter of supply of iron and steel for construction purposes, green card holding 100% EOUs would be treated on par with customer coming under status 'A' (Highest Group). Export Commissioner in the Ministry of Commerce has been nominated to recommend requests to the Joint Plant Committee, Calcutta and to coordinate demand for iron and steel from 100% EOUs.
- (7) The Department of Civil Aviation has issued instructions to Air India, Indian Airlines, International Airports Authority of India and Director General Civil Aviation to accord priority treatment to 100% EOUs holding green cards in the matter of transport facility by air.
- (8) Green card holding approved 100% EOUs in the small scale sector would be treated on par with units in the medium/large scale sector in the matter of allocation of levy cement for factory construction from central quota.
- (9) IOBI has issued instructions to financial institutions to charge $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ less interest from approved 100% EOUs on loans sanctioned to them subject to certain conditions.

Note : The units availing facilities/benefits under the 100% EOU scheme are required to be approved by the Board of Approval headed by Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

U.S. Investment in India

2821. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any possibility of increasing US investment in India with the recent visit of Prime Minister to U.S.A.; and

(b) what effort is being made to make the people of the US, particularly trade and industry, know about India and India's capabilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Recent press reports indicate an increasing awareness in US of our investment and foreign collaboration policies. US investments and collaborations will be welcome within the parameters of our policies.

(b) Several steps are taken for this by various agencies of the Government, including dissemination of information regarding our industrial policies and capabilities and guidance to prospective investors/collaborators by the Indian Investment Centre which has an office in New York.

Incentive to State Governments for better Financial Management

2822. **SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether his Ministry gives any incentives to State Governments for better financial management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry would introduce some incentives to encourage State Governments to have better financial management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(d) The question of providing incentives for better financial management does not arise as all the States are expected to manage their finances in such a manner as to avoid

running overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India.

Improvement in Working of Public Sector Banks

2823. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently discussed several issues with the Chief Executives of the public sector banks at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the points on which the discussion was held; and

(c) what further measures will be adopted by the banks in improving their working ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Finance Minister had a meeting with the Chief Executives of public sector banks on 17-7-85 in New Delhi. He reviewed the performance of each bank in terms of profitability, priority sector lending, direct finance to agriculture, lending to weaker sections, recovery of direct agricultural advances and other dues against norms and averages for the banking system as a whole. The Chief Executives of the banks were asked by the Finance Minister to tone up their Customer Service and create an effective machinery for redressal of the grievances of the customers. Banks were also asked to determine the norms of disposal of common items of work expected of the banks by the customers. In the sphere of priority sector lendings, banks falling short of stipulated targets were asked to draw up firm programme of action to reach the targets.

[*Translation*]

Labour Casualties in Khetri Copper Project

2824. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of labourers who died since the inception of Khetri Copper Project to date;

(b) the number of cases in which the dependants of the deceased persons have

been given compensation so far and the time by which compensation will be given to remaining dependants; and

(c) the measure Government propose to take to check labour casualties ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Total number of labourers who died in accidents at Khetri Copper Complex since inception in 1967 is 47. The dependants of all the deceased persons have been given compensation.

(c) The following measures are taken to check labour casualties :

- (i) Continuous efforts for effective enforcement of safety regulations;
- (ii) Motivation of the workers towards safety;
- (iii) Frequent inspection by Safety Officers;
- (iv) Imparting refresher training to the workers;
- (v) Bringing awareness among the workers through companies;
- (vi) Implementing the recommendations of the Tripartite Safety Committee;
- (vii) Utilising the services of Workmen's Inspectors; and
- (viii) Activising the Pit Safety Committees.

[*English*]

World Bank offer to adopt Sectoral Financing for Indian Coal Industry

2825. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank offered to adopt sectoral financing as distinct from individual project approach for the Indian Coal Industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the offer in details; and

(c) the advantage of sectoral financing to the individual project approach for Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Value of Rupee in Relation to other Currencies

2826. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the most viable currency at present in the World market; and

(b) the present exchange rate of Indian Rupee in relation to the other main currencies of the World ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The term 'viable currency' is not quite clear. However, on the presumption that the reference is to a major international currency which has its own strength and world wide acceptability, the US Dollar can be called a viable currency.

(b) The exchange rate of Indian Rupee *vis-a-vis* other major currencies as on 2nd August, 1985 was as follows :

Currency	Rupees per unit of foreign currency as on 2-8-1985
Pound Sterling	16.55
U.S. Dollar	11.9819
Deutsche Mark	4.2447
Japanese Yen	0.0505
French Franc	1.3953
Swiss Franc	5.1678
Dutch Guilder	3.7872

[*English*]

Reaction of Government to Changes Proposed by UNDP in Dividing Resources

2827. SHRI BIMALKANTI GHOSH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has opposed changes proposed by the United National Development Programme (UNDP) in dividing resources; and

(b) if so, (i) the modifications proposed by UNDP and the suggestions of our Government in the matter; and (ii) the response from UNDP and the major donors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in its Special Session in February, 1985, *inter-alia* considered the UNDP Secretariat's proposal regarding UNDP resource distribution formula amongst the various countries and others. The proposal sought to (i) reduce the percentage share of UNDP global resources to be kept apart for distribution among country programmes (ii) allow relatively lower weightage points to countries having low per capita income and to countries having population exceeding 500 million and (iii) to manipulate the shares of "supplementary" criteria. The proposal was found to be adverse to the interests of countries like India. Accordingly, the proposal was opposed by the Indian delegation.

2. The matter was postponed for discussion in the regular session of the Governing Council of UNDP held from 3rd to 29th June, 1985. In this session also, the Indian delegation opposed the proposals harmful to Indian interest. The Indian stand was to demand retention of the existing third cycle resource distribution formula. Major donors supported the UNDP proposal.

3. The Governing Council in its June, 1985 session ultimately adopted a compromise formula. Under such compromise formula, the Indian stand on preserving old criteria regarding share of country programme, weightage points for low level per capita GNP and population exceeding 500 million etc. were accepted.

Irregularities having a Cost push Effect on Coal Industry

2828. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 8th June, 1985 wherein it is reported that Baveja Committee identified several irregularities having a cost-push effect on the nationalised Coal Industry such as nine per cent unproductive man power; substantial absenteeism among productive mines, uncontrolled inventory, under utilisation of mining equipment and machinery; absence of large scale mechanisation in coal raising and transport, and lower productivity of miners; and

(b) if so the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1977 the Government of India constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G.C. Baveja to examine the possibilities of improving the efficiency of coal mining and bringing about economies in the cost of production of coal. The Committee submitted its report in 1978. The Committee made certain recommendations which include identification and classification of surplus man-power, curbing absenteeism rationalising the procurement and use of spares to bring down expenditure, a proper procedure for selection of stock items, improving production and productivity by marginal investment etc.

The recommendations of the Committee were considered and the coal companies were asked to implement the accepted recommendations.

All efforts are being made to increase production and productivity in the coal companies with a view to provide them with a sound financial base as well as to make them fully poised to meet the growing demands of coal in the years to come. The various measures being adopted to increase production and improve productivity in coal companies include massive investment in the new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use of and better maintenance of equipments, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of man-power by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus

workers and their re-deployment after a suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber, etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in the Bihar-Bengal coalfields.

Enquiry into Fraud Committed by Rajendra Sethia

2829. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of enquiry into fraud committed by Shri Rajendra Sethia in Punjab National Bank abroad;

(b) total number of persons detained in this matter and their particulars; and

(c) the other banks where similar investigations of frauds are being conducted and the particulars of those persons involved in it and facing investigation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A criminal case was registered on 1st March 1985 under Sections 120Br/w 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC against Shri Rajinder Singh Sethia and others. Shri Sethia was arrested on the same day. He continues to be in judicial custody. His applications for bail have been rejected by the trial court as well as High Court, Delhi.

On the conclusion of investigation in UK by the CBI into a specific instance, a chargesheet was filed on 29th May 1985 against Shri Rajinder Singh Sethia and Amarjeet Singh under Sections 120Br/w 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC and also substantive offences punishable under Section 420 and 471 r/w 467 IPC in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi. The case is pending trial. Further investigations into certain specific instances and other allegations remain to be completed. The CBI is making efforts to expedite the same.

(b) CBI has reported that Shri Rajinder Singh Sethia was arrested on 1st March 1985 and is presently in judicial custody, Shri Amarjeet Singh, former General Manager,

Punjab National Bank, was arrested by CBI on 16th March 1985. On 16th April 1985, the Delhi High Court ordered his release on bail. During this period of one month he was in police custody for nine days and judicial custody for the remaining period. Apart from the CBI case, Scotland Yard, London is also investigating certain allegations relating to certain transactions of Rajinder Singh Sethia with the Central Bank of India, London. During the investigations, Scotland Yard are reported to have arrested the following persons :

- (i) Shri B. R. Patarkar, former Dy. General Manager, Central Bank of India, London.
- (ii) Shri N. M. Valecha, Assistant General Manager, Central Bank of India, London.

In addition, Punjab National Bank has reported that its Manager at London branch was arrested by Scotland Yard, London and the proceedings against him are pending in a London Court. In addition another Manager in that branch, who subsequently resigned, was also arrested by Scotland Yard, and proceedings against him also are pending in the London Court.

(c) The CBI is also conducting investigation into certain specific instances of alleged cheating etc. done by Shri Rajinder Singh Sethia on Central Bank of India, London and Union Bank of India, London.

Special Assistance to Growers for Rubber Plantations Destroyed in Flood in Kerala

2830. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI P. A. ANTONY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large areas of rubber plantations have been destroyed in the recent floods in Kerala;

(b) if so, the total estimated loss;

(c) whether any special assistance is being given by the Centre to the rubber growers for rehabilitating the plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The damage suffered by rubber plantations due to floods in Kerala are relatively small and isolated in comparison with other agricultural crops. According to a preliminary survey the loss may range between Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 70 lakhs only.

(c) and (d). No special assistance is, therefore, contemplated. However, affected rubber growers will be given assistance under existing schemes of the Rubber Board on a priority basis.

[Translation]

Supply of Pump Set Engines to Farmers through Banks in Bihar

2831. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat, India, P. S. G., Rajiv, Kamal and Atul Shakti brands of pump set engines are being supplied to farmers through banks in Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have made payments for these pump set engines along with other details regarding these payments during the last three years;

(c) the prices fixed for these pump sets by Government; and

(d) the manufacturing cost of these pump sets and the prices at which these were supplied to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

[English]

Utilisation of Installed Capacity of NTC (WBABO) Ltd. Calcutta

2832. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite heavy funding, the management of the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Ltd. has been unable to

maximise the utilisation of its total installed capacity during the last seven months and thus could not raise the production and sale;

(b) if so, the facts thereof with details of installed capacity of its each unit and percentage of utilisation during the above period;

(c) whether sub-standard cotton had been supplied time and again to the mills which also resulted into huge losses; and

(d) the further steps proposed for better performance of the subsidiary of the NTC Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The overall spinning and weaving utilisation has gradually gone up in respect of NTC (WBABO) Ltd. during the last 7 months. The comparative performance of NTC (WBABO) is as under :

	Dec., 84	June, 85
Spinning utilisation%	34.8%	53.5%
Weaving utilisation%	27.7%	37.7%
Production value Rs.	217.26	Rs. 322.42
	lakhs	lakhs
Sales value	Rs. 180.05	Rs. 266.13
	lakhs	lakhs

(b) Statements I and II showing the installed capacity, in each case are given below.

(c) No, Sir. No complaint have been received from NTC (WBABO) regarding supply of sub-standard cotton to the mills under them.

(d) Some of the important steps taken/are being taken to improve the performance of the mills under NTC are as under :

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;
- (ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for cash loss.
- (iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity has been provided in most of the mills.
- (iv) Selective modernisation programme have been adopted for result-oriented gains; for best utilisation of limited resources;
- (v) Cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost at all levels;
- (vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses;
- (vii) workers' participation scheme in the management of the mills is being encouraged.

Statement-1

Name of the Mill	Installed capacity of looms	Weaving Utilisation (%)							
		Dec. 84	Jan. 85	Feb. 85	Mar. 85	Apr. 85	May 85	June 85	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Bengal Textile Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2. Manindra Mills	180	36.1	86.8	71.8	71.7	82.7	67.8	64.4	
3. Central Cotton Mills	534	23.1	42.1	49.1	44.1	32.2	17.7	34.3	
4. Bengal Fine No. 1	48	21.2	13.7	39.7	37.1	39.4	41.6	37.6	
5. Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills*	651	31.8	56.2	64.2	48.4	38.9	40.1	41.3	
6. Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	300	55.3	71.9	75.8	76.6	79.2	72.3	72.6	
7. Rampooria Cotton Mills*	736	45.5	38.8	36.4	37.9	37.2	34.5	41.1	
8. Arati Cotton Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9. Bangasri Cotton Mills	396	37.9	48.9	46.9	47.0	44.8	42.4	32.8	
10. Bengal Fine No. 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11. Jyoti Weaving Factory*	160	27.9	27.3	26.9	22.7	24.4	23.1	21.9
12. Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Kanoria Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Sodepore Cotton Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Bihar Co-operative Wvg. and Spg. Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills*	536	17.2	9.4	13.6	13.4	14.2	13.2	13.3
17. Associated Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Orissa Cotton Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3541	Average utilisation	27.7	36.4	40.6	38.2	38.7	34.6
19. Mohini Mills (Managed Mill)	436	79.9	85.4	83.8	84.6	85.9	75.0	84.8

Statement-II

Name of the Mill	Installed capacity of spindles	Spinning Utilisation (%)							
		Dec. 84	Jan. 85	Feb. 85	Mar. 85	Apr. 85	May 85	June 85	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Bengal Textile Mills	17076	15.6	52.4	48.3	43.9	49.9	44.4	38.3	
*2. Manindra Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3. Central Cotton Mills	35464	15.0	39.4	40.6	40.4	30.6	26.0	25.4	
4. Bengal Fine No. 1	24800	38.3	61.1	60.7	58.3	45.7	48.9	47.9	
5. Bengal Luxmi Mills	28737	28.9	45.6	52.2	53.0	59.1	58.1	52.9	
6. Shree Mahalaxmi Mills	15936	44.7	74.9	77.9	78.2	73.8	78.2	74.3	
7. Rampooria Cotton Mills	27284	32.8	36.1	50.9	59.3	59.9	54.5	55.5	
8. Arati Cotton Mills	21320	35.1	54.1	36.0	53.4	60.3	59.0	60.3	
9. Bangasri Cotton Mills	14828	55.3	83.4	80.6	80.2	76.5	72.1	75.5	
10. Bengal Fine No. 2	12960	53.1	64.1	69.3	60.2	53.0	51.1	60.8	
*11. Jyoti Wvg. Factory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12. Laxmi Narayana Cotton Mills	29132	48.2	65.3	64.2	50.1	52.9	56.9	61.0	

**Excise Duty on Cinematograph
Film Print**

2833. SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state :

(a) whether Government are thinking of reviewing their policy of imposing excise duty on cinematograph film print on account of its adverse effect on film industry;

(b) if so, when a decision in the matter is expected to be taken; and

(c) if not, the rationale behind this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Central excise duty is levied on prints of feature films at specified rates. The rates vary depending on whether the film is made wholly in black and white, or wholly or partly in colour and whether the films exceed 4000 metres in length or not or whether the films are cleared within 12 months of the date of first release or later. Exemption from the whole of the central excise duty is also available to the first 12 prints of feature films cleared for home consumption, with further graded slab rates of duty on subsequent prints. No proposal regarding changing the existing central excise duty structure on cinematograph film prints is under consideration of the Government at present.

[Translation]

**Inspections carried out by Indian Mines
Bureau in BALCO Khurkhuri-
Dadar, M.P.**

2834. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times inspections have been carried out by Indian Mines Bureau in Bharat Aluminium Company, Khurkhuri-Dadar (M. P.) during 1984-85;

(b) the details regarding the irregularities being committed in this company as pointed out by the Bureau;

(c) whether these are actually being committed there and if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the category-wise number of the local people employed in this company along with their percentage ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd., does not have any mines in Khurkhuri-Dadar area. It has, however, two mines on the Western side of Khurkhuri-Dadar, viz. (1) Rakti Dadar and Nanhoo Dadar (2) Hazari Dadar. These mines were inspected twice by the officials of Indian Bureau of Mines in 1984-85. According to the reports, violations regarding the notice of reopening of mines and submission of annual returns and quarterly explosive returns were noticed.

(d) The number of local people belonging to M.P. employed in Korba Unit of BALCO is 5275, which is 73% of total number. The category-wise break-up is as follows :

Class—I	171
Class—II	152
Class—III	2918
Class—IV	2034

[English]

Banned Pesticides Under O.G.L

2835. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in its new export and import policy declared in April, 1985, Government had given a wide allowance for 75 banned pesticides under the Open General Licence;

(b) whether these include deadly pesticides like Endrin, Parathion, Disulphoton, Leptophos, Mevinphos, Nitrofen, DECP, Calcium Arsenate, Azinophos Methyl and 2, 4, 5-T;

(c) if so, the reasons for importing and manufacturing such deadly pesticides in the country which are banned in other countries;

(d) whether the import and manufacture of such deadly pesticides is proposed to be stopped soon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Question do not arise.

Loan to Unemployed Youths in Rajasthan

2836. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of beneficiaries under the Self-employment for Educated Youth Programme upto the 31st March, 1985;

(b) whether loan applications of unemployed youths under the said scheme numbering in thousands had been processed by the District Industries Centres in Rajasthan State upto the 31st March, 1985 but the applicants could not obtain loans because of paucity of funds earmarked for the State; and

(c) by what date such applicants would get loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Under the Self-employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth, the banks had sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 401.54. crores to 2.42 lakh beneficiaries for the year 1983-84. As per the progress reports available, the banks have sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 369.71 crores to 2.26 lakh beneficiaries during 1984-85, Full information is still awaited.

(b) and (c). For the year 1983-84 as against the target of 10,000 for the Rajasthan State, the commercial banks sanctioned 15054 cases. For the year 1984-85, as against the target of 15,000 banks have sanctioned 15,382 cases. The operative period of the Scheme has been extended till the end of current financial year.

[Translation]

Proposal to have five years Budget

2837. SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government are considering a proposal to have five years budget ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : No, Sir.

Allotment of rejected Sleeper Bars by S.A.I.L.

2839. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of rejected sleeper bars allotted to Bhilai and Indore (M.P.) based sales branches of Steel Authority of India Limited during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, year-wise;

(b) the names of the industries to which the Bhilai and Indore branches of the Steel Authority of India Limited allotted rejected sleeper bars, during the same years;

(c) the details of the quantity of rejected sleeper bars allotted to each industry;

(d) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited gives priority in matter of allotment of raw materials to the Small Scale Industries and the small units of agro-tool manufacturers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Receipts of rejected sleeper bars at Bhilai and Indore branches of SAIL during last three years have been as follows :

(Quantity in tonnes)

Year	Bhilai	Indore
1982-83	Nil	113
1983-84	886	53
1984-85	999	57

(b) and (c). During 1982-83, 1983-84 and early part of 1984-85, materials could be despatched to branches as per the demands projected by the branches, in full measure, as the availability was good. However, from the middle of 1984-85, despatches are being made to the branches, generally, on the basis of the best sales done by the branch during last three years after prorating the same to availability. As per the distribution procedure of SAIL, rejected sleeper bars are given to rerollers, forging units and agricultural implement manufacturers based on their best off-take from SAIL during 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, prorated to availability.

It will not be in the commercial interest of the company to divulge names of the customers to whom the materials have been allotted.

(d) and (e). As per the existing distribution policy, rejected sleeper bars are given to rerollers, forging units and agricultural implement manufacturers on the basis of their best off-take during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, prorated to availability.

[English]

Quantity of Natural Rubber Imported and Released

2840. SHRI P. A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of natural rubber imported and released to users upto July 31, this year; and

(b) the quantity of imported rubber to be released this year after, July 31 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Opening stock of useable imported natural rubber was 850 tonnes as on 1-6-1985. Out of authorisation for import of further 20,000 tonnes for the period June-August, 1985, S.T.C. has actually imported a quantity of 13,500 tonnes upto 31-7-1985. A further quantity of 6,500 tonnes, which has been delayed due to be bad weather, is expected to arrive any time. Allocation of 20,600 tonnes of imported rubber have been made to actual users upto

31-7-1985 and lifting is expected to the completed during August, 1985.

Loans to Farmers of Orissa to Purchase Agriculture Inputs by Nationalised Banks

2841. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state :

(a) the details of plans being implemented by the nationalised banks to make available loans to farmers, for purchasing Agricultural inputs, cattle and loans to educated persons for setting up their own business/shops in the rural areas of Orissa with details of number of such cases in each category during the last three financial years; and

(b) what action has been taken to increase the funds for assisting purchase of automobiles for transport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There are two important Scheme viz, integrated Rural Development Programme and Self employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth for providing loans to poor farmers and educated unemployed youth respectively. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme the total number of beneficiaries assisted in Orissa during the last three years has been as under :

Year	No. of beneficiaries assisted
1982-83	252453
1983-84	217073
1984-85	213119

The scheme for providing self-employed to unemployed educated youth was started from the year 1983-84. The number of cases sanctioned under this scheme in the State of Orissa is follows :

Year	No. of cases sanctioned
1983-84	6823
1984-85	7599

(b) The banks have been advised to lend 40% of their outstanding advances to priority sector. Credit for transport vehicles falls within priority sector provided the total number of vehicles with the borrower does not go beyond six.

Export Trade of Handlooms and Handicrafts

2842. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of export trade in respect of Handloom and Handicrafts products during the last two financial years;

(b) whether Government is considering a review of the export position of these items to enable them to earn more foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) The value of exports in respect of handloom and handicraft products during the last two financial years are as follows :

	(Rs. in crores) (provisional)	
	Handlooms	Handicraft
1983-84	319.75	345.82
1984-85	348.86	397.37

(Source : Handlooms Export Promotion Council and D.C. (Handicrafts).

(a) and (c). The export performance of Handlooms and Handicrafts is reviewed periodically by the Government with a view to increasing their exports.

Payment of Commission to Collection Agents of Banks

2843. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all banks are paying $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent commission to the collection agents;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Bank is paying only 3 per cent commission to its collection agents;

(c) if so, the reasons for such discrimination between the Andhra Bank and other banks; and

(d) steps taken by Government to remove this disparity so that the Andhra Bank collection agents would get $3\frac{1}{2}$ commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Sale of Pilfered Skeletons

2844. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that dead bodies are brought to Calcutta from Bihar, Orissa and other parts of the country to cater to the growing demand for the skeleton markets spanning over fifty countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite protests, this trade of selling pilfered skeletons abroad has flourished allowing a large network of bone-traders and clandestine operators in Calcutta, who are behind the sordid business to make capital out of the dead; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop this business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No specific instance have come to notice.

(b) and (c). Export of human skeletons and parts thereof is allowed by the Port Licensing Authorities on production of certificates from (i) Police Authorities not below the rank of the officer-in-charge of the Police Station concerned regarding the source of procurement which should also indicate the quantity by weight or by number and (ii) foreign buyer that human skeletons are required for biological and medical purpose only. State Governments concerned have already been advised to ensure that there are no practices in this respect.

World Bank Assistance for Projects during Seventh Five Year Plan

2845. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projects have been selected for execution with assistance from the World Bank during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names and brief outlines of such projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the projects taken up with such assistance completed during the Seventh plan have since been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the likely dates of completion in respect of those which are still not completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). World Bank assistance is being obtained for specific projects as negotiated from time to time. Every year a pipeline of projects is prepared for assistance from the World Bank. The exact number of projects for which assistance can be tied up and the quantum of such assistance depends upon the availability of Bank group funds and the status of preparation and processing.

(c) to (e). A statement showing on-going World Bank projects with their likely dates of completion is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT/1377/85].

Customs Check on Parcels received by Foreign Embassies

2846. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any check are exercised by the Customs as airports and seaports or watch kept on the pouches or parcels received by the foreign Missions in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The consignments and parcels containing dutiable goods received by various Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates in India are subjected to check by Customs at the airports and seaports by reference to identifying marks, particulars of consignee etc. These goods are allowed clearance by Customs on the basis of Exemption Certificates issued by the Ministry of External Affairs. However, in respect of Diplomatic Mail Pouch only the seals are verified. In cases where there is reason to believe that the packages may contain contraband, the consignments are detained for Customs examination and appropriate action taken in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs.

Orders for Boats/Vessels by DGS & D

2847. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending orders for manufacture of boats/vessels placed by the Director General of Supply and Disposals on behalf of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the date of placement of order, name of the party, number of vessels, date of delivery, payments made in each such case and the present position;

(b) whether D.G.S. and D. is responsible for undue delay in finalising contracts and as a result of that the cost has increased and the work in the Islands is suffering; and

(c) if so, the measures the Ministry is going to take to set right lacuna ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Information is given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). D.G.S. and D. is not responsible for delay. The delay in execution of the contracts by the Suppliers. The on going contracts are reviewed in consultation with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport from time to time.

Statement

S. No.	A/T No. and Date	Description	Firm	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	ME-1/SV-3/236 dt. 31-7-75 Value Rs. 1.83 Crores Original D.P. 31-5-78	Passenger Vessels 4 Nos.	Cleback Boat Co. Calcutta	<p>The Supplier delivered first Vessel in September '80. The 2nd Vessel has been completed to the extent of 85%. 3rd and 4th Vessels have been completed upto 2nd stage <i>i.e.</i> to the extend of 30%. The firm who had earlier ensured delivery of second vessel by June '85 have not been able to complete the same for which the matter is being pursued.</p> <p>They have drawn payments to the extent of Rs. 58,50,571 towards stage payments.</p>
2.	ME-1/084 dt. 10-7-74 Value 7.94 lakhs Original D.P. 30-11-79	Barges 2 Nos.	East Coast Boat Bidrs., Kakinada.	<p>Constructson work of the Barges have been completed by the supplier.</p> <p>The supplier firm have obtained payments to the extent of Rs. 3,08,100 towards stage payments. The firm with whom the matter was pursued for expediting transportation of the vessel hava came up with the request for increased transportation charges which is beyond the scope of the contract.</p>
3.	ME-1/119 dt. 1-11-83 Value 1.25 Crores Original D.P. 30-4-85	200 Ton Cargo Vessel	Unique Enterprises Cochin	<p>This contract has been placed towards a risk purchase against a cancelled contract bearing No. ME-1/098 dt. July '80 on M/s. Arun Sea Crafts, Alleppy. Construction work has been completed upto 3rd stage <i>i.e.</i> roughly 45%. Delivery date was upto 30-4-85. This stands extended upto 15-9-85.</p> <p>The supplier firm have drawn payments to the extent of Rs. 57,69,450 towards stage payments.</p>

1

2

3

4

5

4. ME-1/096 dt.
7-6-80 Value
86.56 lakhs
Original DP.
30-11-81

Hospital-cum-
banking-
cum-supply
Ship One No.

Hindock
Engg.,
Calcutta

The vessel was completed upto 4th stage i.e. roughly 65 per cent. However, the contract had to be cancelled on 8-6-84 at the risk and cost of the firm. Partly built ship is still in the custody of the firm.

The case has been processed in consultation with Min. of Law. The issue has been referred to arbitration and the arbitrator has been appointed.

The supplier firm have obtained payment to the extent of Rs. 56.26 lakhs towards stage payments.

S.T.C. to revamp raw material allocation policy

2848. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) recently decided to revamp its raw material allocation policy for the export-oriented sports industry in favour of small units; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the revised policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). STC has sent a proposal to the Government on distribution of raw material to the sports goods industry. The proposal envisages categorisation of producing units, in terms of turnover, for allocation of raw material and better allocation for small units.

Trade Collaboration Agreements with Foreign Countries

2849. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the nature of trade collaboration agreements entered into with foreign countries by his Ministry during the last six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : The Ministry of Commerce has not entered into trade collaboration agreement

with any foreign country during the last six months.

Standing Group to Lay Down Policy and Guidelines in Department of Mines

2850. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently Government have set up a Standing Group in the Department of Mines to lay down policy and guidelines and consider other related issues; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith its composition and terms of reference as well as the programme chalked out in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) A Standing Group has been set up in the Department of Mines in regard to the indigenisation of capital goods and equipment required by the various Public Sector Undertaking under the Department.

(b) The details alongwith its composition and terms of reference etc. are given in the statements below.

Statement

Composition

(i) Secretary, Department of Mines Chairman

- (ii) Addl. Secretary, Deptt. of Mines Vice Chairman
- (iii) Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (I) Ltd. Member
- (iv) Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. "
- (v) Fact Engineering and Design organisation "
- (vi) Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. "
- (vii) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. "
- (viii) Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. "
- (ix) Engineers India Ltd. "
- (x) Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. "
- (xi) National Aluminium Co. Ltd. "
- (xii) Hindustan Copper Ltd. "
- (xiii) Hindustan Zinc Ltd. "
- (xiv) Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. "
- (xv) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. "
- (xvi) A representative of Directorate General of Technical Development. "
- (xvii) A representative of Planning Commission and "
- (xviii) Adviser (S and T) Convener
Department of Mines

The Group may co-opt any other Member(s) if they so desire.

Terms of Reference :

- (i) Assess the capital goods requirements of the public sector undertakings or exploration, mining, beneficiation, smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals, down-stream products and by-products. Such assessment should cover not only replacement/renewal requirements of the existing projects, capital goods for the sanctioned projects, but also such requirements of the projects, which are likely to be taken up during the 7th and subsequent Plans. While

making such assessment of the capital goods requirements, compatibility of the equipments to be procured under replacement/renewal programme with the future procurements should be kept in view.

- (ii) Recommend broad specifications of the equipments which would meet the needs of both the user and the manufacturer.

- (iii) Implement in practice the price preferences policy and lay down the delivery schedules for equipment and spares.

- (iv) Any other related issues.

The Standing Group will meet from time to time to chalk out the requisite programme of action.

Complaints against advocates of Lucknow for tax evasion

2851. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investigation into the complaints of tax evasion by the practising advocates of Lucknow has not yet been completed;

(b) whether these complaints were made more than a year ago;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken to expedite the investigation; and

(d) if completed, how many advocates have since been drawn into the net of tax returns alongwith details of amounts earlier evaded by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Investigation of complaint of tax evasion, which was against one advocate only, has been completed. The authorities have been directed to complete the assessments u/s 143(3) after proper enquiry.

Request of Tamil Nadu Government for Greater Share of Income Tax and Excise Duty

2852. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government had sought a greater share of the Income tax and excise duty along with a revision of the Gadgil formula;

(b) if so, when the said demand was recorded with Government;

(c) the reaction of Government to the said demand;

(d) which other State Government have demanded such greater share and revision of the formula, the names of the States; and

(e) the reaction of Government of such demand in details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Tamil Nadu Government have not requested the Government of India for a greater share of the Income tax and excise duty. However, they have requested for a revision of the Modified Gadgil Formula in October, 1984.

(c) Any view on the revision in the present formula of Central assistance could be taken only by the National Development Council.

(d) Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have requested for revision of the Modified Gadgil Formula. No State Government have demanded a greater share of the income tax and excise duty.

(e) Any view on the revision in the present formula of Central assistance could be taken only by the National Development Council.

Appeal Cases decided by Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

2853. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage of departmental appeals decided in favour of Government by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and the percentage of the assessee's appeals decided by the Tribunal in favour of the assessee during the years ended on the 31st March 1983, 1984 and 1985 and the causes for difference between the two percentage, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal falls under the administrative control of Ministry of Law and Justice. The information necessary for reply to the question has been sought from the Ministry of Law and Justice and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Mining by Private Sector

2854. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed in principle to dereserve some mining areas for exploitation by the private sector to optimise mineral output in the country;

(b) if so, the particular minerals and mining areas in the State of Orissa which are proposed to be opened to the private sector; and

(c) the terms and conditions of payment of royalty in respect thereof to the Union Government and the State Government concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The question of de-reservation of some mining areas has been referred to a Committee constituted by the Government. The Committee will go into the various aspects of dereservation of mineral bearing areas presently reserved for public undertakings.

(b) The information about the areas which are likely to be opened up will be available only after the Committee submits its report.

(c) The terms and conditions of payment of royalty are governed by the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and are not dependent upon the opening of any area.

Growing Industrial Sickness in the Country

2855. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India proposes to take some steps to check growing industrial sickness in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by RBI in this regard; and

(c) the guidelines sent to different banks by RBI to help in checking industrial sickness with the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions/guidelines to the scheduled commercial banks, from time to time, in regard to strengthening of monitoring systems for early identification of sickness in industrial units; determination of viability of the units showing signs of sickness and rehabilitation of the viable sick units. The rehabilitation programmes may include several concessions/reliefs such as funding of overdue interest, reduction in rate of interest, lower margins, rescheduling of past dues etc. besides grant of need-based working capital facilities. In respect of small and medium scale units, the RBI has constituted State Level Coordination Committee with representatives from the banks, term lending institutions, State Governments, etc. to render assistance in a coordinated manner.

**Supply of coal to thermal power stations
Railway and other core sector of Industry**

2856. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to ensure regular and unhindered supply of coal to thermal power stations, Railways and other core sector of Industry, Government are thinking of modernising coal mining;

(b) whether a study has been conducted to see how far appropriating modern techniques in coal mining would contribute to bring down mining cost; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The increase in the coal production has been planned to match with the demand of various consuming sectors like steel, power, railways, cement, fertilizer and other industries. During the Seventh Five Year Plan period (1985-90) the pro-

duction of coal is planned to increase from 147.43 m.t. in (1984-85) to 216 m.t. in 1989-90. In order to achieve this increased in the production of coal, besides modernising and reconstructing some existing mines, a number of new mines will also be developed.

(b) and (c). During formulation of feasibility/project reports for reconstruction of existing mines and for development of new mines, alternative methods and technologies are studied before a particular method or technology is decided upon. This process also involves detailed techno-economic studies with a view to selecting the cost effective options. Such detailed studies are carried out in the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited who have been assigned with the task of planning and designing of coal projects.

**Financial Assistance by J.P.C. to
T.I.S.C.O.**

2857. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the corpus of the Steel Development Fund;

(b) the amount of financial assistance already sanctioned by the Joint Plant Committee to the Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd., to undertake capital projects and its rate of interest;

(c) whether this Company has again approached the Joint Plant Committee for financial assistance of about Rs. 300 crores;

(d) the guidelines laid down by his Ministry for the sanction of such loans to the private sector Companies; and

(e) the reasons why the TISCO cannot raise the required capital either from the open market or from the financial institutions and the guarantee taken by the JPC/ Government for the repayment of the loan amount and interest thereon and the terms and conditions for the grant of such financial assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The total receipts in the Steel Development

Fund (SDF) as on 30th June, 1985 were Rs. 1456.91 crores.

sanctioned to the Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited and the rates of interest which are applicable to all borrowers are as follows :

(b) The Steel Development Fund loans

	Amount	Rate of Interest
	(Rs. in crores)	
January, 1981	100.00	14% upto 30-9-1983 8% w.e.f. 1-10-1983
August, 1984/March, 1985		
1. Directly related to production	10.34	8%
2. Investment on Infrastructure	42.56	5%
3. Social Welfare Services Schemes	25.90	2%
Total	Rs. 78.80 crores	

Disbursements out of loan of Rs. 78.80 crores is pending for completion of certain formalities.

(c) The Company applied in June, 1985 for sanction of a fresh loan of Rs. 194.40 crores from the SDF.

(d) The Steel Development Fund is to be utilised, *inter-alia*, for providing loans to the main steel producers for financing their schemes/projects and other capital expenditure for modernisation, research and development, rehabilitation diversification, renewals and replacement, balancing, additions to capacity, major new investments or any other programmes for improving the quantum or technology or efficiency of production of iron and steel. Finance from the Fund is made available to the private sector steel plant for its developmental plans on the same terms and conditions as applicable to public sector steel plants. The appraisal of the schemes/projects of private sector steel plant is carried out as per the procedure followed by the financial institutions for this purpose. This appraisal is presently being done by the Economic Research Unit of JPC.

(e) TISCO as a main steel producer is entitled to loan assistance from Steel Development Fund to meet its development expenditure. TISCO is also separately obtaining loans from other financial institutions such as Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, L.I.C., etc., and the loans from Steel Development Fund are supplementary

source of finance for development expenditure. The guarantees taken against the loans sanctioned to TISCO are broadly on the lines of guarantees obtained by Industrial Development Bank of India for their term loans.

Introduction of value added tax system

2858. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has given up the idea of introducing value added tax (VAT); and

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted his Ministry in abandoning this idea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Some of the main difficulties why it has not been possible to introduce VAT so far are :

- (i) existence or multipoint commodity taxation not only by the Centre but by the States as well as by local bodies;
- (ii) multiplicity of the rates of commodity taxes;
- (iii) lack of detailed maintenance of records, particularly by units in the small scale sector;

- (iv) existence of exemptions from commodity taxes for various socio-economic purposes which would break the chain of tax credit in respect of inputs and thus create distortions;
- (v) administrative requirements, in some cases, leading to collection of the levy on inputs rather than the finished products.

Five days week in Banking Industry

2859. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the feasibility of having a 5-day week in the banking industry on the lines of the Central Government Offices;

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) its impact on customer service; and

(d) the stage at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Taking over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited

2860. SHRI NARSING RAO SURYAWANSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the measures taken or proposed to takeover the sick steel industries *v/z.* Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Karnataka asking the Government of India to take over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL). The matter is under examination.

Per capita advances made by Nationalised Banks to States

2861. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the per capita advances made by the nationalised banks during the last three years to the different States, year-wise, State-wise and Union Territory-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : State-wise per capita advances made by all Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of December 1982, December 1983 and December 1984 are set out in the statement given below :

Statement

State-wise per capita advances of Public Sector Banks (S. B. I. Group + 20 Nationalised Banks)

State/Union ferritory	Per Capita Advances (Rs.)		
	As on the last Friday of		
	December 1982	December 1983	December 1984
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	354	428	570
Assam	112	135	191
Bihar	127	148	172
Gujarat	557	621	749

1	2	3	4
Haryana	521	602	686
Himachal Pradesh	310	363	434
Jammu and Kashmir	167	191	224
Karnataka	516	603	748
Kerala	378	451	562
Madhya Pradesh	181	224	269
Maharashtra	1139	1428	1725
Manipur	65	84	115
Meghalaya	175	142	193
Nagaland	185	237	287
Orissa	162	199	243
Punjab	724	858	1081
Rajasthan	217	261	318
Sikkim	55	79	168
Tamil Nadu	564	625	782
Tripura	127	153	189
Uttar Pradesh	202	236	274
West Bengal	562	610	681
All Union Territories*	4064	4673	5057
All India	467	537	642

Note : 1. Population as per 1981 Census.

*2. Information in regard to break-up is not available.

Cancer Insurance Scheme

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

2862. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a novel Memberships-cum-Insurance Scheme for Cancer by the New Indio Assurance Company Limited in association with Indian Cancer Society has been decided to be introduced in metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are :

- (i) The eligibility of the proposer to the Scheme is subject to the membership of the Indian Cancer Society.
- (ii) The insurance premium for the said Medical Expenses Policy is Rs. 100-per annum.
- (iii) The total limit for medical expenses cover is Rs. 40,000 in the aggregate.

- (iv) Other benefits available to the insured as a member of the Indian Cancer Society, include
 (a) one free medical check up at a detection centre in the first year
 (b) Check up at concessional rates in the subsequent years, (c) Access to literature on cancer, etc.

- (v) To begin with, the Scheme is restricted to 4 metropolitan cities since the Indian Cancer Society has no facilities in this behalf elsewhere in India. The Scheme is to be extended to other centres by and by, depending upon the development of facilities at those places.

- (vi) India is the third country in Asia to introduce such a Scheme to cover medical expenses in treating cancer.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

2863. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether modernisation of the textile mills as envisaged in the new textile policy of the Government would render a large number of textile workers jobless; and

(b) if so, steps proposed to be taken by Government for rehabilitation of the retrenched workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Modernisation of the textile industry is expected to be accompanied by growth and hence it is expected that as a result there will not be any substantial reduction in its employment. However, at the unit level, the policy states that the rationalisation of labour and revision of work norms would need to be negotiated with labour to arrive at a satisfactory solution. Hence, in all such cases the interests of workers would be protected.

Viability of Steel Plants during Seventh Plan

2864. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Governments have approached the Union Government to make the steel plants a viable unit during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Contracts for Construction Work in Foreign Countries

2865. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian contractors have been getting a large number of contracts for construction work in foreign countries for the last few years;

(b) if so, whether recently the number of such contracts has decreased considerably;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered this problem; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor and reaction of Government in regard to the matter of getting contracts abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 1975 to 1981 Indian contractors were able to obtain a large number of orders for overseas construction projects.

(b) to (d). Recently there has been a decline in orders for overseas construction projects executed by Indian companies. The decline in orders can be attributed *Inter-alia* to the following :

(i) prolonged Iran-Iraq war;

(ii) uncertainty and depressed conditions prevailing in the World Oil market; and

(iii) balance of payments problems in a number of countries.

In order to promote exports of construction projects, a number of steps have been taken such as (i) setting up of a separate Export Promotion Council called the 'Overseas Construction Council of India'; (ii) programmes to augment the management capabilities of the Indian construction industry, and (iii) a special cell has been constituted in the EXIM BANK for identifying multilateral agency financed projects for increasing business share of Indian companies.

[English]

Setting up of All India Management Service in Public Sector Undertakings

2866. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an All India management service on the pattern of I.A.S. to man the public sector undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether managerial deficiencies are a major factor in the dismal performance of the public undertakings; and

(d) if so, what specific steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Drug Peddling in Capital

2867. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether over the last one year drug peddling has gone up tremendously high in the Capital;

(b) whether large scale seizures have been made during the last two months;

(c) whether the gangs operating within the country could be busted; and

(d) whether officials who were really responsible for the seizures have been rewarded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revamping of Public Sector Steel Plants

2868. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a thorough revamping of the public sector steel plants is under-way to streamline their functioning and to ensure more emphasis on maintenance replacement and modernisation and optimise production;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed plan;

(c) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has been asked to formulate plans to raise the production of high contribution items in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, how the Steel Authority of India Limited has firmed up plans to hike the manufacture of 'key products' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Modernisation of steel plants is a continuous process. Each steel plant is allocated certain sums under the annual budget for incorporation of additions, modifications replacements and balancing facilities leading to renovation technological upgradation and improvement in its performance.

The Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants are being expanded to 4 MT capacity each. The latest estimated cost of the schemes are Rs. 2000 and Rs. 2300 crores respectively.

Steel Authority of India Limited have formulated schemes for technological upgradation of the steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur (Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.) at estimated costs of

Rs. 990 crores, Rs. 690 crores and Rs. 930 crores respectively. Investment decisions will be taken after the 7th Plan allocation of the steel sector are finalised.

(c) It has been the endeavour of SAIL to raise the production of high value items required by the market. Accordingly a plan

for the current financial year has been made for the production of these special/critical items which is higher than the previous years.

(d) A statement showing the production plan of special/critical steel for 1985-86 alongwith actual production for 1984-85 is given below.

Statement

Production of Special/Critical Items froms Sail Plants

Items	(Unit-tonnes)	
	1984-85	1985-86 Plan
Boiler Quality Plates	11661	61000
Ship-Building Quality Plates	18355	42000
IS : 2062 Plates	74311	181000
HR Coils for Sale (2.55 MM and Below)	272897	245000
0.63 MM and below CR Products	91149	107000
0.4/0.5 MM GP/GC Sheets	35408	25000
Electrical Steel Sheets	26576	50000
Electrolytic Tin Plates	72781	70000
LPG Sheets	63007	72000
D/DD/EDD Killed CR Products	25303	35000
Rails (Tested)	294100	370000
Electrode Quality Wire Rods	19481	36000
Fish Plates	2950	5000
Torsteel	136291	165000
Total	1144270	1464000

Reservation Rules for SC/ST Employees in NABARD

2869. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes from among them in Class IV, III grade A, B, C, D, E, F;

(c) whether the reservation rules in favour of SC and ST employees have been followed and roster maintained; and

(d) it so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b).

As reported by NABARD (National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development) the total number of employees and the Scheduled

Caste and Scheduled Tribe among them as on 31st March, 1985, was as under :

Group 'A' Officers	Total	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Grade A	1110	102	66
Grade B	529	30	9
Grade C	343	23	6
Grade D	122	1	—
Grade E	50	1	—
Grade F	15	—	—
Grade F*	4	—	—
Total :	2173	157	81
Group 'B' (Clerical Staff)	1442	142	50
Group 'C' (Subordinate Staff)	635	119	21
Total :	4250	418	152

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Recruitment to officer' cadre is done on an All India basis through open market and 15% and 7.5% posts are reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, respectively. For this purpose a 40 point roster is maintained. Clerical and Subordinate staff is recruited on regional basis and reservations are made as per the rates applicable to different regions/States. For this purpose 100 point rosters are maintained by NABARD. For promotions to various cadres, 40 point rosters are followed.

Granting Licence to Own Powerloom in the State

2870. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government to

extend the period till 31 December, 1985 for granting licence to own Powerlooms (Tex mark) in the State;

(b) whether Union Government have taken any decision on the request of the State Government; and

(c) if so, by when the time limit relaxation will be provided to State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra have requested for extension of time upto 31st March, 1987 for utilisation of powerloom permits allotted for the VI Plan.

(b) and (c). The Government have not decided to extend the time limit for utilisation of these permits after 31st March, 1985. However, powerlooms can be set up in accordance with the new Textile Policy with compulsory registration.

**Short, Medium and Long Term Loans to
Small Cultivators through Cooperative
Banks**

2871. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have requested the Centre to permit them to implement the scheme for providing short term, medium term and long term loans to small cultivators through cooperative banks;

(b) whether the approval of the RBI and NABARD is necessary for implementing the said scheme;

(c) if so, when the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD would be giving their approval for implementing the said schemes; and

(d) when a final decision will be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The cooperative banks have been providing short-term, medium-term and long-term loans to small cultivators in Maharashtra. It is presumed that the question relates to the interests subsidy scheme proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for subsidising the rate of interest on short-term, medium-term and long-term loans provided to small farmers by cooperative credit institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India and NABARD, after examination of the scheme, have expressed their disagreement with the proposal. The Government have also decided not to concur with the proposed scheme:

Steel Production

2872. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Working Group on Iron and Steel has emphasised the need of installation of Steel plant at Daitari to check the growing deficit of steel by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether since the Third Five Year Plan period the share of the steel industry in total investment has fallen from 5.29 to 2.32 per cent resulting in deficit of steel;

(c) whether the Study Group has recommended against the expansion of existing steel plants and to complete the on-going projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of on-going projects which are awaiting completion, with details; and

(f) the total gap visualised by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan in demand and supply of steel output from our industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Working Group has recommended the completion of the on-going projects, including the expansion schemes of Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants upto the 4 million tonnes per annum capacity. It has also recommended the modernisation and technological upgradation of older steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur so as to attain the rated capacity.

(e) The various on-going projects presently underway in the public sector steel industry are detailed below :

Plant	Name of the Scheme
1	2

A. Existing Steel Plant :

Bhilai Steel Plant

Rourkela Steel Plant

4 MT Expansion

Silicon Steel Project

2 × 60 MW Captive Power Plant

1	2
Durgapur Steel Plant	2 × 60 MW Captive Power Plant
Bokaro Steel Plant	4 MT Expansion 3 × 60 MW Captive Power Plant
Alloy Steels Plant	Stage II Expansion
B. New Steel Plants	
Name of the Steel Plant	
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	

(f) The Working Group on Iron and Steel for 7th Five Year Plan has estimated that the overall gap between demand and availability of finished steel in the 7th Plan period will decrease from 1.43 million tonnes in the first year of the 7th Plan (*i.e.* 1985-86) to 0.83 million tonnes in the terminal year of the 7th Plan (*i.e.* 1989-90).

Janata Cloth

2873. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY** : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) total quantity of janata cloth manufactured during the year 1984-85 and the State and Union Territory-wise distribution figure thereof; and

(b) the target fixed for production of janata cloth during the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (**SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH**) : (a) and (b). A statement showing the Statewise quantity of Janta cloth manufactured and distributed alongwith the targets for the year 1984-85, is given below.

Statement

(Figures in million sq. mts.)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Target 1984-85	Production during 1984-85	Actual Delivery during 1984-85
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	28.25	28.25
2.	Karnataka	12.00	10.94	9.84
3.	Kerala	3.00	1.90	1.50
4.	Pondicherry	0.10	0.20	0.70
5.	Tamil Nadu	41.00	42.48	42.48
6.	Madhya Pradesh	15.00	27.16	14.56
7.	Uttar Pradesh	90.00	85.85	84.64
	Bihar	40.00	45.50	43.00

1	2	3	4	5
9. Orissa		30.00	28.00	26.44
10. West Bengal		33.00	30.85	25.92
11. Gujarat		6.40	5.30	5.64
12. Maharashtra		54.00	42.34	42.82
13. Tripura		1.82	1.50	1.36
14. Assam		2.00	4.50	4.00
15. Rajasthan		1.68	2.00	2.00
Total :		360.00	356.77	332.52

Reissue of one Rupee Currency Notes

2874. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have started to re-issue of one rupee currency notes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason for its discontinuance of printing in the past ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The printing of Re. 1 notes was never discontinued. The question of re-issuing one-rupee currency notes does not therefore arise.

Alleged Violation of Fera by Non-resident Indian Businessmen

2875. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-resident Indian businessmen have been violating the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the non-resident Indian businessmen and the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). There are a few cases of non-resident Indian businessmen who have perhaps violated the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. The details of these cases cannot be disclosed in public interest. However, Government will take appropriate action under the provisions of the law.

Guide Principles in Starting Construction Organisations

2876. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to stage :

(a) the guide principles in starting construction Organisations like Hindustan Steel works Construction Ltd. (HSCL), National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), Bridge and Roof, etc. when many of these are causing heavy losses to the Government; and

(b) whether it is not superfluous to allow these Corporations to undertake works with Government Corporations like NTPC, NHPC, etc. which is resulting extra expenditure to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL) was incorporated in June, 1964 with the objective

of creating in the public sector an organisation capable of undertaking complete construction of modern integrated steel plants from the stage of site investigation to the stage of commissioning. National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) was incorporated in January, 1975 with the objective of undertaking construction work including fabrication of structures, erection and installation of equipment, etc. relating to dams, tunnels, barrages, bridges, irrigation projects, hydro-electric projects and thermal power projects. Bridge and Roof Co. India Ltd. (B and R) is a company taken over from the private sector. It was incorporated in 1920. Consequent upon Balmer Lawrie, the erstwhile Holding Company of B and R, becoming a subsidiary of Indo-Burma Petroleum Co., a Government Company, in 1972, B and R also become a Government Company. B and R ceased to be a subsidiary of Balmer Lawrie with effect from 1-12-78.

The objectives of setting up construction companies in the public sector are, briefly :

- to develop the necessary capabilities and capacities to undertake large and complex construction works relating to projects of national importance;
- to develop and become the repositories of expertise in specialised fields of construction;
- to generate pools of specialised equipment and man power relating to specialised fields of activities;
- to be pace-setters in the country in matters relating to construction costs, quality standards, performance norms, employment policies and professional ethics;
- to undertake works in difficult and inhospitable areas where private construction organisations generally do not wish to operate except at prohibitive rates;
- to undertake works of a classified nature; and
- to build up the requisite capabilities and capacities to undertake turn-key projects comprising planning, design and execution including supervision,

monitoring and control in the allied fields of specialisation;

It is a fact that some of the public sector construction companies are showing losses. This is due to reasons like over-manning, cash liquidity problems, particularly in foreign projects, dwindling order book position and time and cost over-runs due to delayed completion of projects. The companies concerned are looking into these problems with a view to coming up with solutions as to how best they can be overcome and their profitability can be increased.

(b) The Hon. Member is presumably referring to the extra expenditure on account of the 1% price preference which public sector construction companies are entitled to get from public sector clients. Investments in the public sector, including public sector construction companies, are made on overall grounds of public policy. Government are interested in ensuring that the capacities so created are utilised to the fullest possible extent. With this end in view, Government have decided on the present policy of extending 10% price preference to public sector undertakings subject to quality requirements and delivery schedules being met. The question, therefore, does not arise.

Loan to Agriculturists

2877. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has asked permission to give loan to the agriculturists at the rate of 6 per cent and subsidise extra interest above 6 per cent;

(b) if so, the progress in the matter; and

(c) when it is likely to be given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a scheme for providing loans to small farmers at a subsidised rate of six per cent.

(b) and (c). The proposal was examined in consultation with RBI. The RBI is not in favour of making any deviation in the interest rate structure. The Government has also not concurred with the proposed scheme.

Proposal to Relax Foreign Exchange Control Regulations

2878. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to relax Foreign Exchange Control Regulations keeping in view the changing circumstances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Government have appointed a Working Group under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, with the approval of Finance Minister, to review the entire gamut of Exchange Control Regulations. The Working Group is yet to submit its report to the Government.

Outstanding Income Tax Arrears

2879. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are income-tax arrears to the tune of Rs. 2,20,341 and whether it includes majority of the demand which is not being collected because the relevant appeals have not been decided by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals);

(b) if so, the exact amount of outstanding demand in 100 top cases of the country because of pendency of the appeals before the aforesaid two authorities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite their disposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The income-tax arrears outstanding as on 31-3-1985 amounted to Rs. 2203.41 crores. This figure is, however, provisional and its break-up is not available. However, on the basis of the figures as on 31-12-1984, the major portion of the demands remained uncollected because appeals are pending with Income-tax Appellate Tribunal/Commissioners Income-tax.

(b) In 100 top cases in which demands exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs were outstanding as on 31-3-1985 amounting to Rs. 393.58 crores, an amount of Rs. 271.99 crores is looked up on appeals.

(c) Appropriate steps are being taken, according to law, to recover the arrears.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Powerlooms in Mills under New Textile Policy

2880. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether no restrictions of any kind will be imposed on the mills under the new textile policy and also no permission will be required for setting up new powerlooms;

(b) if so, whether it will affect the small weavers working in the handlooms industry and if so, how;

(c) whether the Shivraman Committee had reached the conclusion that a powerloom providing employment to two persons takes away the employment of 24 handloom weavers; and

(d) if so, whether this policy will not come in the way of tackling the unemployment prevailing in the villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below :

(c) and (d). While Sivaraman Committee had made relevant observation for displacement of handlooms, the present policy will not lead to unemployment in the villages in view of the facts stated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The new Textiles Policy announced by Government envisages that the capacity expansion by existing units and capacity creation by new units in the organised mill sector would be permitted subject to the general industrial policies including the provisions of the MRTP Act and FERA. In the powerloom, the setting up of new powerlooms would be guided by the objectives of raising productivity, increasing efficiency,

improving workers welfare and facilitating locational disposal. There shall be registration of all powerlooms.

2. In order to presence the unique role of Handlooms and enable them to realise their full potential as also to ensure higher earnings for the handloom weaver, the following main steps have been spelt out in the new Textile Policy.

- (i) Protection to handlooms by reserving articles for their exclusive production in the handloom sector under the "Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985."
- (ii) Development of handlooms through cooperatives and the Central/State Level Corporations.
- (iii) Modernisation of handlooms and increased provisions for the technological and other inputs for improving productivity of handlooms and the quality and finish of handloom products.
- (iv) Ensuring adequate availability of yarn and other raw materials to the handloom sector.
- (v) Production of mixed and blended fabrics of handlooms with a view to improving the wages and earnings of the weavers.
- (vi) To improve the competitiveness of handlooms, steps would be taken to remove, as far as possible, the cost handicap of the handlooms *vis-a-vis* the powerloom by suitable fiscal measures.
- (vii) To improve the marketing of handloom products, infrastructure of marketing complexes, training of marketing personnel and intensive publicity shall be organised. Steps would be taken to upgrade the technical, managerial and administrative skills of personnel employed in the handloom sector.
- (viii) To improve the working condition of the handloom weavers and to provide direct benefit to them, schemes such as a Contributory Thrift Fund Scheme to provide

assistance to the handloom weavers during time of needs and workshed-cum-House scheme to provide a better place for work and living to the handloom weavers would be introduced.

Closure of "Clearing Houses" by Bank Employees

2881. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that "Clearing Houses" are closed by the bank employees even over a minor dispute with the bank management;

(b) if so, whether the traders and industrialists have to face heavy financial loss due to closure of "Clearing Houses" by the bank employees;

(c) whether Government propose to make up the financial loss suffered by the traders and industrialists due to closure of the "Clearing Houses";

(d) if so, the names of the places in the country where the "Clearing Houses" were got closed by the bank employees during the last one year and the number of days for which these clearing houses remained closed with details thereof;

(e) whether Government have considered any measures whereby the clearing houses are not so closed by the employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that while at some centres like centres in Gujarat, clearing operations were suspended due to law and order problems, suspension of clearing house operations at other centres could be traced to a tendency on the part of the bank staff to block clearing to pressurise managements to settle grievances unconnected with clearing functions such as pressurising banks to withdraw transfer orders issued to staff etc.

(b) Suspension of clearing house operations does effect cheque clearing resulting in delay in realisation of proceeds and causes inconvenience to customers including traders and industrialists.

(c) Government do not have any proposal to make good the financial loss if any suffered by traders and industrialists.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(e) and (f). Government have written to all the chief executive emphasising the need for normalising the working of clearing houses. Banks have also been asked to ensure that prompt action is taken to remedy any deficiencies which contribute to the disruption of clearing functions. Banks have been further advised to take prompt and effective departmental action, whenever there are instances of indiscipline on the part of the staff.

Amendment to Taxation and Industrial Policy

2882. SHRI VISHNU MODI :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the taxation policy with a view to accelerate economic development;

(b) if so, the outline of this proposal;

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). A Long Term Fiscal Policy is in the process of formulation. It is hoped to complete the work by the end of September, 1985 or so.

[English]

Detection of Money through Tax Raids in 1984-85

2883. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total worth of unaccounted money and assets detected through tax raids in 1984-85;

(b) the percentage of this detected total was confiscated by Government;

(c) the number of cases of real estate compulsorily acquired by Government where the sale deeds showed artificially lowered price to evade taxes during the same period; and

(d) the total value of the properties compulsorily acquired in this manner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). During the searches conducted by Income-tax Department in the year 1984-85, assets worth Rs. 30.18 crores approximately were found out of which assets worth Rs. 25.08 crores approximately were seized, as the same were prima-facie unexplained. The percentage of seizure out of total assets found during the searches comes to 83%.

(c) and (d). In the year 1984-85, 52 orders were passed for acquisition of immovable properties but these orders have not yet become final. Consequently the value of properties compulsorily acquired by the Government during this period is nil.

Income Tax Defaulters

2884. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars for the ten largest personal income tax defaulters in the country and what are their arrears; and

(b) the reasons for Government not recovering the arrears so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The requisite information regarding top ten individuals against whom income-tax demands were outstanding as on 31-3-1985 is given in the statement below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the assessee	Demand outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)	Reasons for the demand remaining outstanding
1.	Vinod Kumar Dadwania	1595.47	Rs. 745.70 lakhs have not fallen due for payment and Rs. 849.77 lakhs are locked up in appeals with Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals).
2.	Sukar Narain Bakhia	1205.74	Rs. 3.00 lakhs have not fallen due and Rs. 1202.74 lakhs are being recovered by the Tax Recovery Officer.
3.	J. Dharam Teja (Dr.)	987.70	Amount is being recovered by the TRO.
4.	Hari Das Mundra	839.60	The assessee has become insolvent. Appropriate steps are being taken to collect/reduce the demand.
5.	S. N. Maran	732.40	Rs. 15.50 lakhs have not fallen due. Rs. 311.90 lakhs are locked up in appeals. Rs. 364.40 lakhs are locked up in proceeding pending before Settlement Commission. Rs. 40.60 lakhs are covered under instalment scheme.
6.	Chhagan Lal Ganmalji	673.09	Rs. 112.30 lakhs have not fallen due and Rs. 560.79 lakhs are locked up in appeals.
7.	Vinod Rai Bhayani	615.70	Amount has not fallen due for payment.
8.	Bhana Bhai K. Patel	399.35	Rs. 2.83 lakhs have not fallen due and Rs. 396.52 lakhs are being recovered by TRO.
9.	Chander Nath Banik	257.84	Rs. 220.00 lakhs are locked up in the matters pending in Supreme Court and Rs. 37.84 lakhs are being recovered by TRO.
10.	T. M. Hyder Ali	285.48	Rs. 92.06 lakhs have not fallen due and Rs. 193.42 lakhs are locked up in appeals.

Use of Kapurdi Lignite Deposits for Power Generation

2885. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge deposits of lignite have been found at Kapurdi in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a thermal plant to exploit this deposit of lignite;

(c) whether deposits of lignite have also been found near Media in addition to Karpurdi in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the time by which Government propose to chalk out a programme for its exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Exploration for lignite is in progress in Kapurdi area in Rajasthan. The size of the deposit as well as the possibility of installing a thermal plant based on these deposits can be decided only after the exploration work is completed and the availability of requisite quantity and quality of lignite is established in the area.

(c) and (d). Some lignite reserves have been located at Merta area. Exploration work is continuing in this area also. It is too early to propose any programme for its exploitation.

Production of Janata Cloth for Handloom Sector

2886. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering proposals and representations regarding enhancement of procurement price of four sarees of six yards each from 110.60 to 164.40; and

(b) whether there is any truth in its ascertain that the handloom weaver could be denied the minimum wages and put to loss unless enhancement is effected as indicated above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES

(SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal before the Central Government. The procurement prices for janata cloth are fixed by the state governments and the handloom agencies of the states implementing janata cloth scheme. On the basis of the proposals received from the state governments, the Central Government fixes maximum selling prices for different varieties of janata cloth. The state governments fix the procurement prices on the basis of maximum selling price fixed by the Central Government and the subsidy available.

(b) There is no uniform system of payment of minimum wages to handloom weavers in all the States. The wages to be paid for production of janata cloth are also fixed by the state governments and their handloom agencies.

Kanithi Balancing Reservoir of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

2887. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) when was work in Kanithi Balancing Reservoir started by private contractor and what was tender amount and estimated amount as per principal consultants of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) when concerned authorities noticed that principal consultants could not finalise drawings of 'dykes';

(c) the Quantum of work completed by private contractor referred to in part (a) and by what time work was completed;

(d) when design working drawings were received from principal consultants of Kanithi Balancing Reservoir;

(e) by whom and when and under what circumstances it was decided to get these drawings checked by the Central Design Organisation of Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) when opinion from that agency was received and whether it differed from the working drawings of principal consultants; and

(g) when the drawings are finally approved and whether in the meantime any instructions were issued to the tendering private firm ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The work on Kanithi Balancing Reservoir commenced in May, 1981.

The tendered amount of the private contractor M/s. Gayatri Engineering Company was Rs. 8.68 crores. The Principal Consultants of VSP (M/s. M. N. Dastur and Co. (P) Ltd.) had estimated the cost of the work at Rs. 11.90 crores.

(b) The Principal Consultants had submitted drawings of the "Dykes" but they could not finalise the construction drawings for the "Dykes" in view of the inadequate date of soil investigation.

(c) The work has not yet been completed. The value of work completed by the contractor upto 8th July, 1985 is Rs. 21.90 crores.

(d) From June 1981 onwards.

(e) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project Management decided to get the drawings checked, in May 1981. Earlier, to enable preparation of detailed working drawings, the Principal Consultants had issued an assignment on the basis of which a soil investigation report was submitted by M/s. ENGICON in April, 1981. This report revealed certain abnormal geological features; such as patches of silious limestone in tank bed and poor soil conditions, which needed special foundation treatment to ensure safety and water tightness of the dam. In view of the fact that the Dam is situated in the proximity of the steel township area and considering the scarcity of fresh water resources in the region, it was considered prudent to refer the designs prepared by the Principal Consultants to a specialised agency like Central Design Organisation, Government of Andhra Pradesh, for checking and vetting.

(f) The following opinion of the Central Design Organisation was received on 17-7-1981 :

(i) Additional and exhaustive soil investigation would be necessary as the data furnished in ENGICON report were inadequate for finalising the detailed designs.

(ii) Six bore holes should be drilled in the deepest part of the Dam for which a special agency should be commissioned.

(g) Modified drawings from Central Design Organisation were issued from November 1981 onwards.

No instruction was issued to the tender.

Tenders for Kanithi Balancing Reservoir

2888. **SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kanithi Balancing Reservoir has been originally envisaged in the DPR (Detailed Project Report) for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to store 45 days requirement of water at 3.4 million tonnes stage;

(b) the estimated cost of the work as per the final specifications received from the principal consultants;

(c) whether open tenders were invited;

(d) if so, whether the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. (HSCL) and the APSSC etc. which are public sector undertakings also tendered for the same;

(e) if so, which company was selected and what were the terms and conditions prescribed for the above tendered work; and

(f) the reasons why the public sector undertakings mentioned in (c) were not given work outright as per the general practice in respect of several other work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Reservoir as also meant for meeting the water requirements during the 1st stage (1.2 million tonnes per annum capacity) of the steel plant.

(b) Rs. 19.61 crores.

(c) and (d). Yes, sir,

(e) M/s. Gayatri Engineering Company was selected for the work. The job was awarded to them on 20-4-1981 at a value of Rs. 8.68 crores based on the bill of quantity and preliminary drawings prepared by the Principal Consultants. The time of completion stipulated was 15 months.

(f) The work was awarded to the lowest tenderer at Rs. 8.68 crores as against Rs. 10.55 crores quoted by M/s. Andhra Pradesh State Construction Corporation and Rs. 15.71 crores quoted by M/s. National Projects Construction Corporation Limited. M/s. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited the other public sector undertaking had tendered but had not indicated any price.

Increase in estimated cost of Kanithi Balancing Reservoir

2889. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kanithi Balancing Reservoir is meant for storage of water to meet the requirements of 3.4 million tonnes Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons for undertaking

execution of this work even before reaching the first stage of the Steel Plant;

(c) whether an increase in the estimated cost was granted suo moto to the contractor and if so, the extent of increase and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the private contractor executing the job made any representation at any stage for an increase in the cost; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). It is meant for both the stages.

(c) The tendered cost of the project was Rs. 8.68 crores. It was increased to Rs. 21.50 crores on account of increased volume of work found necessary after detailed soil investigations had been made.

(d) The contractor has represented on many occasions for increased unit rates for increased quantum of work.

(e) The contractor has asked for revision of rates for the following items :

Item description	Unit	Original rate	Increased rate asked for
Earth work excavation upto 24 depth in base of Dam	cum.	Rs. 12	Rs. 16
Earth work for 2-5M depth in base of Dam	cum.	Rs. 14	Rs. 18
Excavation of channels rock-toes etc.	cum.	Rs. 12	Rs. 16
Earth work in filling dyke shell	cum.	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 8
Supply and laying of Plain Cement Concrete	cum.	Rs. 300	Rs. 500
Stone pitching in rock toes 150 mm thick and 450 mm thick	cum.	Rs. 65	Rs. 100
Supplying and laying of Sand Silter	cum.	Rs. 55	Rs. 100

None of the claims have so far been accepted.

**Allocation of Steel to Private Parties
by S.A.I.L. Office in New Delhi**

2890. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether during 1984-85 the Delhi based office of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has made large allocation of steel to private parties and that such allotment instructions were issue directly by SAIL's office in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such allotments and reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons why the iron and steel controller and/or the Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL was not consulted before making such allocations; and

(d) the premium in the market on the material supplied at the time of allotment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). During 1984-85, the New Delhi Office of Steel Authority of India Limited made allotments of following quantities of Steel to 59 private parties :

Sl. No.	Items	Qty. allotted in tonnes
1.	GP/GC Sheets including defectives	630
2.	CR Sheets/Coils including defectives	4955
3.	HR Sheets/Coils	480
4.	Wire Rods/Tor Steel	143
Total		6208

The quantity allotted represents 0.2% of total sales by SAIL during the period of such allotment.

(c) The Joint Plant Committee distribution guidelines provide for some quantities being allotted at the discretion of the steel producers. Allotments made are within these limits.

(d) Supplies against these allotments were made from different branches and material supplied was of different sizes, different quantity levels and even of different stages of upkeep. Calculation of market premiums on a chronological basis is, therefore, not possible.

Estimates of black money

2891. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the International Monetary Fund estimate of black money at play in India as compared to the estimate of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The International Monetary Fund itself has officially never made any estimate of black money in India. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their recent report on "Aspects of black economy in India" have estimated the black income generation for 1983-84 at 18 to 21% of the Gross Domestic Product at 31,584 to 36,786 (rupees in crores). They have however admitted that their results are based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which could be challenged.

**Special Regulations for Industrial Peace
in Falta Export Processing Zone
Authority**

2892. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Falta Export Processing Zone Authority (FEPZA) has discussions with the State Government of West Bengal on

special regulations to ensure industrial peace in the Zone; and

(b) if so, (i) what are the suggestions of FEPZA; (ii) what is the response from the State Government; and (iii) the steps taken/proposed by FEPZA to ensure industrial peace in the Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The matter was considered at a meeting of the Falta Export Processing Zone Authority. Efforts are being made in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal to formulate a policy conducive to good industrial relations. There has been a favourable response from the State Government.

Abolition of post of Chairman in CIL

2893. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the advisory panel set up by his Ministry to go into the restructuring of the Coal India Ltd. has recommended the abolition of the post of Chairman of the holding company and the grant of total autonomy to the chiefs of its four subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the panel regarding decentralisation of the structure of Coal India Limited; and

(c) the contemplation of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). No advisory panel was set up to go into the restructuring of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries. However, the Expert Committee appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Mohd. Fazal to go into the working of Coal India and its subsidiaries submitted its report to the Government in 1980. This Committee *inter-alia* recommended that Coal India, as a holding company, might be abolished and the subsidiary companies of Coal India might be made independent companies. The Committee on Public Undertakings of VIIth Lok Sabha also

examined the working of Coal India in its 17th Report and recommended the retention of Coal India with subsidiary companies. No change in the existing set up of Coal India as a holding company is contemplated.

National Loan Council

2894. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Government of West Bengal for National Loan Council;

(b) whether it is also a fact this proposed Council will ease out the problem of overdrafts; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Quota of Janata Cloth to States

2895. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of janata cloth to be so provided to the State and mode of its payment by the States;

(b) whether the supply will be through National Textile Corporation and through cloth mills; and

(c) whether the quota of janata cloth fixed for Andhra Pradesh is both inferior and less to meet the demand of the public in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) A Central Government subsidy Janata cloth at the rate of rupees two per square metre is provided. It is paid quarterly to the State Government for onward transmission to the producing agencies on the basis of the janata cloth produced and delivered by them to distribution agencies. Cost of janata cloth is not paid to the State Governments.

(b) National Textile Corporation or cloth mills are not concerned with janata cloth

scheme which is implemented by the handloom sector.

(c) No, Sir. The quota or target for janata cloth production is allocated to all the States on the basis of number of looms, post performance etc. The entitlement for consumption of janata cloth within the State is fixed on a profate basis according to the total population and number of persons below the poverty line.

Realisation of Income Tax Arrears

2896. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new drive has been launched to realise the income tax arrears; and

(b) if so, the result achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Intensive efforts are being made during the current year to realise the income tax arrears.

(b) It is too early to judge the impact of the intensive efforts.

Utilisation of Machinery Purchased for Bolani Ores Ltd.

2897. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of machinery purchased for Bolani Ores Ltd. a captive mine of Durgapur Steel Plant in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the machinery and equipments purchased by the above coptive mine has not been utilised and kept idle;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for early and proper utilisation of mechnery and equipments kept at Bolani Ores Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The total value of machinery purchased by Bolani Ore Mines, a captive mine of Durgapur Steel Plant, during the last three years was as under :

Year	Total value (Rs. in lakhs)
1982-83	222.03
1983-84	130.11
1984-85	69.70

The machinery purchased during the last three years include :

(a) Mobile earth moving and mining machinery;

(b) Equipment for service centre for machinery at (a) above; and

(c) equipment for machine shop.

(b) Excepting for a few machines meant for the service centre and machine shop, all other machinery was commissioned and utilised as per schedule.

(c) and (d). The commissioning of a few machines viz. lathe, grinding machine, drill and air compressor was delayed due to shortage of cement and late receipt of foundation drawings from the suppliers and consultants. All these machines have been since commissined and are being utilised.

[Translation]

Percentage of National Income through Income Tax Realisation

2898. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of national income earned from the realisation of income tax;

(b) whether the major part of the amount earned by way of income-tax is being spent on its realisation by the Government;

(c) if so, the percentage thereof;

(d) whether a major part of this revenue is spent on conducting raids by income tax officers on businessmen and in connection with other suspicious cases;

(e) if so, the percentage thereof and the number of cases in which Government have to return the money seized in the raids;

(f) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into it or contemplated over it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The percentage of Income-tax including Corporate Tax (gross) to National Income (net National Product at factor cost at current prices) for the years 1980-81 to 1983-84, the year for which the latest national income data is available is given below :

Year	Percentage of Income Tax (including Corporate Tax) to net national product at factor cost (at current prices)
1980-81	2.65
1981-82	2.85
1982-83	2.83
1983-84	2.63

(b) and (c). During 1984-85, the Department collected Rs. 4497.64 crores (figures provisional) on account of Income-tax (including Corporate Tax). A sum of Rs. 100.82 crores was spent on realisation of Direct Taxes. The ratio of expenses to the revenue collections works out to 2.2% only. Thus, it can not be said that a major part of the amount is being spent on realisation of the taxes by the Government.

(d) to (g). In view of reply given to part (c), the question does not arise.

[English]

Harassment to Weaker Sections by Banks in Sanctioning Loans

2899. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of the best efforts of Government the economically backward and weaker sections of the society are being harassed by some banks in the country in sanctioning the loans;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop the harassment to the weaker sections by the banks; and

(c) the details, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to ensure that weaker sections do not face unnecessary hardship in availing of bank credit. The guidelines have essentially given relaxation in margin and security norms. In addition, a target has been given to all public sector banks to ensure that the share of weaker sections in the total outstanding advances is not be less than 10 per cent. For important poverty alleviation programmes like IRIP the banks have been advised to finalise loan applications within a stipulated period.

The implementation of these guidelines and the flow of credit to weaker sections is monitored on a regular basis.

Target assigned of Production of Janata Clothes to States

2900. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target assigned to different States for production of Janata cloth during the year 1984;

(b) whether the States have achieved their targets;

(c) if not, the reasons for the failure;

(d) whether necessary precautions were taken to avoid such failures in future; and

(e) the details, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Statement showing the target assigned to different States for production of Janata cloth for 1984-85 and the achievements thereto is given below. Targets are assigned for the financial year and not for calendar year. Some States have not achieved their targets.

(c) The failure to reach the targets was mainly due to sharp increase in the prices of coarse counts of yarn.

(d) and (e). In the detailed guidelines issued to State Governments regarding Janata cloth scheme, the Janata cloth producing agencies of the States have been asked to

draw up a production programme for the production of janata cloth and their every year, regularly monitor the arrangements for supply of yarn. production and establish a link between

Statement

(Figures in million sq. mts.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Target 1984-85	Production during 1984-85
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	28.25
2.	Karnataka	12.00	10.94
3.	Kerala	3.00	1.90
4.	Pondicherry	0.10	0.20
5.	Tamil Nadu	41.00	42.40
6.	Madhya Pradesh	15.00	27.16
7.	Uttar Pradesh	90.00	85.85
8.	Bihar	40.00	45.50
9.	Orissa	30.00	28.00
10.	West Bengal	33.00	30.85
11.	Gujarat	6.40	5.30
12.	Maharashtra	54.00	42.34
13.	Tripura	1.82	1.50
14.	Assam	2.00	4.50
15.	Rajasthan	1.68	2.00
Total :		360.00	356.77

World Banks Advice to further
Liberalise Imports

2901. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our imports during the recent years have gone up considerably;

(b) whether the World Bank has advised Government to further liberalise our import policy;

(c) if so, whether there is any move to further liberalise the imports; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The imports grew by 37.3 per cent in 1980-81. The rates of growth in 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 have been 8.4, 5.5, 9.8 and 7.9 per cent respectively.

(b) to (d). Multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, of which India is a Member, make suggestions about policy of our country is formulated in accordance with our national interests and in keeping with national objectives at priorities. The

new Import-Export Policy has been announced in April, 1985 valid for a period of three years.

Proposal to withdraw from Singareni Coal Mines in Andhra Pradesh

2902. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government intend to withdraw from Singareni Coal Mines in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Nontraditional Items

2903. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether besides traditional items being exported, India is exporting a number of non-traditional items as well;

(b) if so, the details of non-traditional items exported during the last six months and the amount of foreign exchange earned; and

(c) whether Government are considering to diversity the export of non-traditional items and encourage the export thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The export figures in respect of selected non-traditional items for which provisional data are available for the first nine months of 1984-85 (April-December, 1984) are as follows :

Export of selected non-traditional items

(Value : Rs. crores)

S. No.	Item/product groups	April-December, 1983-84 (P)	April-December 1984-85 (P)
1	2	3	4
1.	Fish and fish preparations	243.71	238.01
2.	Vegetables and fruits (other than cashew kernals)	103.67	105.14
3.	Leather and Leather Mfrs. (excl. footwear)	235.31	344.44
4.	Footwear	13.70	20.78
5.	Readymade garments	365.95	497.73
6.	Made up articles wholly or chiefly of cotton	59.71	60.32
7.	Fabrics of man-made fibre	22.15	16.79
8.	Silk Fabrics	28.03	35.16
9.	Chemicals and allied products	190.91	275.82
10.	Metal Mfrs. (Excl. Iron and Steel)	144.20	145.85

1	2	3	4
11. Machinery and Transport equipment	367.97	398.53	
12. Iron and Steel (incl. Mfrs.)	35.60	46.16	
13. Gems and Jewellery	938.56	887.75	
14. Artwares and Art works of handlooms	88.63	101.62	
15. Crude oil and Petroleum Products	1081.03*	1362.99*	

Note : (P) Commodity-wise figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Source : DGC1 and S, Calcutta. *Ministry of Petroleum.

(c) The import and export policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Different instruments of policy available to Government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted when necessary. The Import and Export Policy announced recently in April, 1985 for a period of 3 years from April, 1985 to March, 1988 has been formulated to give a major thrust to exports as well as encourage efficient import substitution.

Tea Export Registered Downward Trend

2904. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tea export has registered a downward trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) tea exported during the last three years and loss of foreign exchange, if any, during the period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Quantity and Value of tea exported during last three years is as under :

Year	Qty. (M. Kgs)	(Rs. Crores)
1982	189.9	555.55
1983	208.5	516.82
1984	214.7	744.92

Companies Violating Foreign Exchange Regulations

2905. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that some companies have been found violating foreign exchange rules and regulations;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during 1984-85; and

(c) the action taken by Government against each of the companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Separate list of cases against companies who are found to have violated the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act is not kept. The time and labour involved in collecting the information as sought will be disproportionately high. If the Hon. Member specifies any particular case(s) in respect of which the information is required, the same will be collected and furnished. .

Facility of Loan from Banks to Adivasi and Uneducated Farmers

2906. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a machinery to ensure that Adivasi and other uneducated farmers etc., can avail of the facility of loan from banks;

(b) if so, the details of the machinery set up by Government in this respect; and

(c) the number of Adivasis/poor people who have been benefited from the loans and names of places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARIDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Government and Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to the Banks that at least 10% of their total outstanding advances should be for weaker sections. The District Rural Development Agencies set up in each district and the various State level Tribal Development Agencies also play an important role in increasing the flow of bank credit to weaker sections. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme being implemented in all blocks of the country, during the sixth plan period a total of 16.4 million people below poverty line were assisted out of which 39% belonged to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Coal supply to Power Houses

2907. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether on 27th April, 1985 a meeting was called by him to review coal supply position to power houses in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Koradi and Nasik power houses in Maharashtra, did not have more than two three days stock by the end of May '85; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken at the meeting and what would be the rate of supply of coal to the respective power houses in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Koradi and Nasik Power Houses in Maharashtra had 5 days and 3 days coal stock respectively as on 31st May, 1985.

(c) In the meeting it was decided that all the concerned agencies would work in a coordinated manner so that the requirements of the Thermal Power Stations were met in full. The actual coal supplies to these power stations *vis-a-vis* linkages have been as follows :

(Figs. in '000 tonnes)

Month	Nasik			Koradi		
	Linkage	Supplies	percentage of supplies to linkage	Linkage	Supplies	percentage of supplies to linkage
May 1985	320.00	303.1	94.7%	230.0	214.9	93.4%
June 1985	320.00	282.4	88.3%	230.0	231.0	100.4%

The monthly linkages for supply of coal to these power stations fixed by the Standing Linkage Committee, consisting of representatives of Departments of Power and Coal, Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority etc. for the quarter July to September, 1985 are as indicated below :

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Nasik	Koradi
320	280

Decline in Price of Short/Loans Staple Cotton in Maharashtra

2908. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of long staple and short staple cotton has received decline in Maharashtra and unless immediate steps are taken the growers will suffer heavy losses and Government sponsored procurement scheme will suffer heavily;

(b) if so, the details of the Union Government initiatives that are being prepared/taken in this regard;

(c) The quantum of Central assistance given for the procurement of cotton through State Government agencies during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(d) whether the total produce of cotton in Maharashtra is procured by Government agencies and if not, through the middlemen; and

(e) how the interest of the cotton growers of Maharashtra and in other States is sought to be taken care of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d). There is a Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme in Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971. As per the provisions of this Act, 1971, the farmers are initially paid the guaranteed prices for their produce, which are fixed by the Government of Maharashtra on the Recommendations of the Cotton Coordination Committee. At the end of the cotton year, the final prices of cotton are notified by the State Government. The difference between the guaranteed prices and the final prices is paid to the farmers and if the final prices are less than the guaranteed prices, no recoveries are made from the growers. In view of this, farmers are always assured off-take of their produce at remunerative prices, Central Government do not give any financial grant for operation of this scheme. Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Cooperative Marketing Federation, which is State Government agency responsible for operation of the scheme gets credit facilities from the Banks at concessional rates of interest. During the current cotton season, Government of India have allowed a quantity of 95,000 bales of long and extra-long staple cotton for exports from Maharashtra.

(e) While the interests of the cotton growers in Maharashtra are taken care of by the operation of cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme, the Cotton Corporation of India has been designated as the Central price supporting agency for the farmers in

the other cotton growing states of the country.

[Translation]

Sick Industrial Units receiving assistance from Banks

2909. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sick industrial units receiving assistance from the banks at present;

(b) the amount provided to them by the banks;

(c) whether Government propose to restrict this assistance; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). As at the end of June, 1984, 83,597 industrial units financed by the Scheduled Commercial Banks were reported to be sick with outstanding bank credit of Rs. 3273.91 crores.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to issue any such directives to the banks.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Fixed Deposits from Public by Public Sector Undertakings

2910. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector undertakings under the supervision of the Union Government have been authorised to call for and take fixed deposits from the public;

(b) if so, the rate of interest which has been prescribed on such fixed deposits;

(c) whether the state public undertakings are also entitled to call for fixed deposits from the public; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not permitting the State sector undertakings to raise such deposits from public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes Sir. Certain Central Public Sector Undertakings have been allowed to accept deposits from the public.

(b) The interest rates currently applicable to Central Public Undertakings are 11.5%, 12.5% and 14% for one year, two year and three deposits respectively with additional benefit of half a percent to certain categories of depositors.

(c) and (d). Acceptance of deposits from the public by Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act is governed by the provisions of the Companies Act 1956 and Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules 1975 as amended from time to time. These provisions are equally applicable to Government companies whether they are under the Central or State Governments.

Foreign Markets for Indian Textiles

2911. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to improve the quality and quantity of export oriented textiles;

(b) the special type of Indian textiles which have a ready market in Africa and in South-East Asia;

(c) whether there are proposals to send a team of experts to foreign countries to study the markets for Indian textiles and to report on the latest trades on the textiles consumer goods; and

(d) whether there are any textiles emporiums installed and organised during the Indian Festival in Paris and USA and if so, whether there are transactions in business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The following steps have been taken to improve the competitiveness of Indian textiles :

(i) Soft loan scheme is available for modernisation of the textile industry.

(ii) Sophisticated textile machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on 'OGL'.

(iii) Wide width shuttleless looms and rotor spinning machines are allowed to be imported at concessional import duty linked with export obligation.

(iv) With effect from 1st January, 1984 rates of CCS have been revised upwards for many categories of textiles items. Sewing/embroidery threads were also made eligible for CCS w.e.f. 4th July, 1984. This policy has been made applicable for 1985 also.

(v) Government has been sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, buyer-seller meets, participation in international fairs/exhibitions in order to increase and diversify our exports in terms of products and areas.

(vi) The import-export policy has been further liberalised with a view to promoting export of textiles from India.

(vii) New Textile policy has been announced with a view to giving a further boost to our export.

(b) The main type of cotton textiles exported to Africa and South-East Asia are Dress materials, Sheetings, Voiles and Mulls, Sarees, Dhoties and Canvas etc. amongst cotton fabrics and towels bedlinen scarve amongst cotton made-ups and cotton yarn.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Textile industry has not set up any emporium in the Indian Festival in Paris and USA.

[Translation]**Complaints regarding evasion of Tax
by Film Artistes etc.**

2912. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of complaints are received regarding tax evasion by film artistes, producers and distributors of Indian film industry;

(b) if so, whether a separate cell in the Income-Tax Department has been set up to check tax evasion in the film industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware of tax evasion in the film industry. Film Circles have been set up in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad in order to ensure Proper investigation and assessments in the cases of film stars and other persons connected with film industry. Whenever, any specific information about tax evasion is

received, appropriate action is taken under relevant Acts.

**Setting up of Export based Industries
in U. P.**

2913. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of export based large and medium scale industries set up in Uttar Pradesh so far, indicating their locations;

(b) the production capacity of all these industries in terms of rupees and the total amount of foreign exchange earned by exporting their products;

(c) whether there is a proposal for setting up more such industries in this state in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). As per reports received from approved 100% export-oriented units as on 31-3-1985, the following five units, licenced to be set up in U. P., have commenced production and export.

Name	Capacity	Location	Exports (Rs. in lakhs)
1. M/s. Sachdeva Textiles Pvt. Ltd.	Readymade garments, made-up articles and knitwear—Rs. 1350 lakhs p.a.	NOIDA Ghaziabad	141.34
2. M/s. Scientific Instruments Co. Ltd.	2 seater hover-crafts—1000 nos. p.a.	Ghaziabad	0.44
3. M/s. U. P. Export Industries	Cotton Socks and allied Knitwars—15,000 doz. pair p.a.	NOIDA Ghaziabad	3.32
4. M/s. Olympia Exports Pvt. Ltd.	Leather goods Rs. 95 lakhs p.a.	Kanpur	7.17
5. M/s. Arkay Exports	Denim jeans : 600,000 pcs. p.a. Needle Cord Jeans : 350,000 pcs. p.a. Denim Jackets : 50,000 pcs. p.a.	NOIDA Ghaziabad	73.85

(c) and (d). Proposals, as and when received for setting up of units under the scheme of 100% export-oriented units, are considered on merits of each case.

Rural Development by Companies

2914. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State-wise details are available regarding the works started for rural development by various companies under the scheme to reduce expenditure and investment to a certain extent;

(b) if so, the standard of performance of these schemes being carried out under this programme;

(c) whether evaluation of this type of programmes has been made, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the conclusions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) State-wise details regarding the works started for rural development programme by various companies are not readily available. The same are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(b) to (d). National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, have been entrusted with the task of evaluating the impact of these incentives and their report is awaited.

Scheme to Encourage the Export of Woollen Articles

2915. SHRI HARISH PAWAT : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to formulate any special scheme during this year to encourage the export of woollen articles;

(b) if so, whether carpet industry is also proposed to be given special incentive under this scheme;

(c) if so, whether any special scheme has been chalked out for the benefit of carpet weavers of Bhadoi and Chamoli in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) A detailed export development programme has been prepared for woollen knitwear under the 5 year ITC/SIDA Programme which envisages strengthening and modernizing the productive base of knitwear; visit to India of experts on design, marketing and knitting and strengthening trade information system.

(b) to (d). A separate scheme of Advance Training for Carpet Weaving and allied processes has been prepared by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), in Bhadoi and Mirzapur area, for improvement in their skill. Action has also been initiated for opening fifty-five Advance Training Centres in Bhadoi-Mirzapur belt and for setting up an Institute for Carpet Technology at Bhadoi.

[English]

Misuse of Concessions granted for Export of Finished Leather

2916. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government allow some concessions for the export of finished leather;

(b) if so, the details of this concession;

(c) whether Government have any machinery to check that some finished leather after some chemical treatment is not exported as finished leather just to avail the concession; and

(d) if so, the details of such cases detected and action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Only such leather is allowed to be exported as finished leather, as is in conformity with the Indian Standard Guidelines for Identification of Finished Leather for Export (IS : 8170-1981) (Third Revision). The responsibility to ensure this rests with the Customs authorities. Where there is a dispute the Custom authorities send the goods to the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras

for a technical opinion. If the opinion is that the goods are finished leather as per ISI norms, it is allowed for export as finished leather, failing which it is to be taken as semi-processed leather.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses suffered/profits earned by Public Sector Undertakings

2917. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of losses suffered/profits earned by public sector undertakings during the last two years ending March, 1985;

(b) in case the undertakings are suffering

losses the reasons for the same and names of undertakings which constantly running into losses and the amount of loss suffered during the period;

(c) names of undertakings, if any, which have constantly been earning profit and the amount of profit earned during the period by each of these public sector undertakings; and

(d) steps taken by Government to further improve the functioning of the public undertakings so that there is no loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Central Public Enterprises have earned not profits on an overall basis during 1983-84 and 1984-85 (provisional) as detailed below :

	(Rs. in crores)	
	1983-84	1984-85 (provisional)
Net profit made by profit making enterprises	1780.04	2261.27
Net loss made by loss making enterprises	(—) 1534.37	(—) 1305.15
Overall net profit	245.67	956.12

The figures for 1984-85 are based on quick estimates and are, hence, provisional.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the names of public enterprises which made profits continuously for the last ten years ending 1983-84 and the names of those incurred losses continuously during the above period is given below. The amounts of profits made or losses incurred by these undertakings are available in the Public Enterprises Survey of the respective years, placed on the Table of Lok Sabha every year.

The reasons for losses vary from enterprise to enterprise. However, the broad reasons are increase in prices of inputs, non-availability or inadequate availability of power, uneconomic prices, outdated technology, surplus manpower, etc.

(d) The measures taken to improve the functioning of public enterprises include, *inter alia*, regular monitoring of performance,

provision of captive and standby generation of power, investment in balancing facilities, upgradation of technology, training and retraining of personnel, and adoption of various cost control measures.

Statement

Enterprises making Profits continuously for the ten years ending 1983-84

Name of the Company

1. Indian Rare Earths Limited.
2. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
3. Indian Oil Blending Limited.
4. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
5. I.B.P. Co. Limited.
6. Lubrizol India Limited.

7. Madras Refineries Limited.
8. Oil and Natural Gas Commission.
9. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
10. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.
11. Balmer Lawrie and Co. Limited.
12. Bharat Electronics Limited.
13. H.M.T. Limited.
14. Hindustan Teleprinters Limited.
15. Indian Telephone Industries Limited.
16. Instrumentation Limited.
17. Bharat Earth Movers Limited.
18. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
19. The Cashew Corporation of India Ltd.
20. Central Warehousing Corporation.
21. Food Corporation of India.
22. The Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.
23. The Mica Trading Corporation of India Limited.
24. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited.
25. The Projects and Equipment Corporation Limited.
26. The State Trading Corporation of India Limited.
27. International Airports Authority of India.
28. Engineers India Limited.
29. Metallurgical and Engg. Consultants (I) Limited.
30. Water and Power Consultancy Services (I) Limited.
31. India Tourism Development Corporation Limited.
32. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
33. Indian Dairy Corporation.
34. National Research Development Corporation of India.

Enterprises incurring losses continuously for the ten years ending 1983-84

1. Bharat Aluminium Co. Limited.
2. Bharat Refractories Limited.
3. The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.
4. Biecco Lawrie Limited.
5. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited.
6. Scooters India Limited.
7. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited.
8. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited.
9. Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited.
10. Delhi Transport Corporation.

Cultivation of Coffee in States other than in South

2918. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the coffee growing areas in the country and the annual output thereof;

(b) whether Government are considering cultivation of coffee in other States as well, besides the existing places of cultivation in the south; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In a preliminary survey conducted by the Coffee Board, the land and climate of the hilly districts of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and the States in North Eastern Region were found suitable for coffee cultivation. To provide necessary Research/Extension Services in these states, Coffee Board has established/is establishing demonstration farms. The Board also provides financial assistance for bringing new areas under coffee.

Statement

(Quantity in Tonnes)

Year	State	Arabica (Plantation Cherry)	Robusta	Total
1983-84	Karnataka	55,700	23,635	79,335
	Tamil Nadu	13,305	2,210	15,515
	Kerala	1,110	8,445	9,555
	Andhra Pradesh	525	5	530
	Other India	60	5	65
	All India	70,700	34,300	105,000
*1984-85	Karnataka	66,905	61,085	127,990
	Tamil Nadu	10,510	3,975	14,485
	Kerala	1,965	44,915	46,880
	Andhra Pradesh	460	15	475
	Other India	160	10	170
	All India	80,000	110,000	190,000

*Estimated.

Replacement of Blast Furnaces in Bokaro Steel Plant

2919. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the average life of a blast furnace in steel plants;

(b) when the existing blast furnaces were installed in the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(c) in the event of the blast furnaces having outlived their lives, what action is taken to replace the old ones by new ones;

(d) whether these furnaces are not manufactured in the country;

(e) if so, the number of furnaces required and when was the action initiated to import these blast furnaces;

(f) whether some furnaces are kept in the reserve against emergency and the number thereof; and

(g) amount of loss likely to be suffered due to use of old furnaces ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The average life of a blast furnace in a steel plant depends on its maintenance, operational practices, technology, availability of spares etc.

(b) The commissioning dates of the five blast furnaces in the Bokaro Steel Plant are :

Blast Furnace No. 1	3-10-72
Blast Furnace No. 2	12-4-76
Blast Furnace No. 3	26-2-78
Blast Furnace No. 4	27-5-81
Blast Furnace No. 5	9-6-85

(c) No blast furnace at Bokaro has outlived its life. When this happens the blast furnace is rebuilt.

(d) and (e). We have indigenous capabilities of fabricating and erecting blast furnaces. This may require a small amount of foreign exchange for import of components or refractories not readily available in the country.

(f) and (g). No blast furnace is kept in reserve against an emergency and as such no loss is suffered on this account.

Crisis in Powerloom Industry under New Textiles Policy

2920. SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which the powerloom have been equated with mills in the textiles policy especially when many of the single loom power-looms are owned by small weavers and can in any way appear to be mills; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure that the powerloom industry does not face the crisis similar to handloom industry consequent to the new Textile policy and the other restrictions being imposed on the powerloom industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the weaving sector, the composite mills and the powerlooms have their own respective strengths and weaknesses. There has been an unplanned growth of powerlooms in the unorganised sector in the recent past. In order to restore health to the textile industry, it has been decided to treat the powerlooms in the mill sector and powerlooms in the unorganised sector at par, as far as possible, for the purpose of policy. The powerlooms in the unorganised sector are not expected to face crisis consequent to the new textile policy.

Ad Hoc subsidy to Handloom Weavers

2921. SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of subsidy that the Union Government and the State

Governments are giving to handloom weavers especially to Khadi weavers;

(b) the stage at this subsidy is given;

(c) whether the subsidy is given in order that it reaches the weavers; and

(d) considering the fact that the averages handloom weavers and specially the Khadi weaver's economic conditions have not improved the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the subsidies reach the weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). For the handloom sector financial assistance is given by Central and State Governments on matching basis for modernisation of handlooms out of which $\frac{1}{3}$ rd is given by way of subsidy. Besides, special rebate at the rate of 20% is given for retail sale of handloom fabrics, which is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. In addition subsidy at the rate of rupees two per square metre is also given for sale of janata cloth at fixed prices. The entire subsidy on janata cloth is borne by Government of India. The quantum of rebate and janata subsidy during 1984-85 was Rs. 14.45 crores and Rs. 58.28 crores, respectively. The quantum of subsidy on modernisation paid by Central Government was Rs. 29.70 lakhs.

For the Khadi sector, rebate on retail sales of Khadi is given by Central Government and the total assistance under this Head during 1984-85 was Rs. 21.23 crores.

(c) and (d). The special rebate, both in the handloom and khadi sectors, is a marketing assistance as it helps liquidation of stocks and in turn generates more demand. It thus provides more employment and greater earnings. The janata subsidy is basically consumer oriented since the products, which are meant for poorer sections of the population, are sold to the consumers at prices less than the cost prices. However, the weavers get more sustained employment on account of this scheme. The modernisation subsidy directly benefits the weavers and helps them in modernising their looms to improve their productivity as well as earnings.

Field of Operation of the Cooperative Marketing Federation

2922. **SHRI P. R. KUMAR-MANGALAM** : Will the Minister of **SUPPLY AND TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there are marketing cooperative societies for handlooms and textiles *viz.* the Cooptex of Tamil Nadu which are buying textiles from non-cooperative societies and marketing the same while handloom weavers cooperative societies have crores of rupees of stock in inventory; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to ensure that Cooperative Marketing Federations restrict their field of operation only to products of the cooperative societies and private handloom weavers so that, these cooperative societies and weavers do not suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) State Government of Tamil Nadu has confirmed that Cooptex is procuring handlooms cloth only from the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies, and no procurement has been made from non-cooperative.

(b) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with U.S. Fiscal Experts

2923. **SHRI B. V. DESAI** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level U. S. team of fiscal experts had visited India in the month of July, 1985 for finalising the "double taxation" avoidance agreement with India;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed;

(c) to what extent the suggestions of the high-level U.S. team have been accepted by Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A five member Tax Delegation led by a Deputy

International Tax Counsel of U.S. Treasury visited New Delhi from July 22-26, 1985 to negotiate a double taxation avoidance Agreement between India and U.S.A.

(b) The U.S. Tax Delegation discussed with their counterparts in India the proposed drafts of the Agreement prepared by the two countries.

(c) Both sides put forward their respective points of view. No decision has been taken by the Government on the various issues discussed.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposed Strike by Bank Officers

2924. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA** :

Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Officers have threatened to go on strike on alleged drastic modification of the agreement they arrived at with Indian Banks' Association;

(b) if so, the major demands of Bank Officers and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of impact of recent wage increases in banks profitability; and

(d) the changes Government made in the agreement between bank officers and the Indian Banks' Association ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had in March, 1985 recommended for Government's consideration certain proposals relating to wage revision of officers in public sector banks. These recommendations provided for an increase in the total wage bill of officers by about Rs. 100 crores representing an increase of 16.7% which was higher than that approved for the Award staff. Government after examining the recommendations, agreed for a wage revision in terms of which the wage bill of officers is estimated to go up by about 13.5% and resulting in an increase of about Rs. 80 crores per year.

Indian Banks' Association has reported that the All India Confederation of Bank Officers' Organisation (AICOBBO) has served a notice of strike on IBA making its intention to observe one day's token strike all over the country on 13-8-85. Its major demands include giving retrospective effect to the wage revision from 1-7-83 as against 1-7-84 as has been agreed upon and non-recovery of 10% of basic pay towards house rent from such officers who have been provided with bank accommodation. After considering all aspects, including the capacity of the banks to absorb an expenditure of another Rs. 80 crores as arrears for the period 1-7-83 to 30th June, 1984 out of its profits, Government decided to make the wage revision effective from 1-7-84. At regards waiver of 10% of pay, it is the considered view of Government that like other employees in the Government and other public sector undertakings bank officers should also pay 10% of their pay towards house rent, where houses are provided by the banks.

Schemes for Promoting Engineering Export with World Bank Aid

2925. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has been appraised of any scheme for promoting engineering exports with its help;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether any funds for promoting productivity is part of this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The World Bank has appraised an Industrial Export Development Project the objective of which is to assist the Government of India in carrying out its programme to increase competitiveness and export of manufactured products particularly in the engineering sub-sector. Among other things, the project envisages establishment of measures to improve productivity and process technology by engineering enterprises.

Discussions are still going on with the Bank for a possible loan of \$ 250 million for this project.

Problem of Jute Industry in West Bengal

2926. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had convened a meeting of concerned interests in Calcutta on 21 May, 1985 to discuss the problems of the jute industry and solutions thereof;

(b) if so, the principal decisions taken by Government in the matter;

(c) the number of closed/looked out jute mills which have resumed working after 21 May, 1985; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interests of the jute cultivators and the jute mill workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below :

(c) After 21st May, 1985, seven closed/looked out jute mills have reopened/lifted lookout as on 5-8-85.

(d) With a view to protecting the interests of growers, the Government has already announced the minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta for the jute seasons 1985-86 (July-June). The Jute Corporation of India has been made responsible to undertake price support operation to the extent necessary. The Corporation has geared itself with men, machinery and money in all its purchase centres to start procurement operation as soon as it is necessary.

With a view to facilitating early reopening of closed/lockedout jute mills in the interests of mills workers, the Central Government have taken action to implement the decisions arrived at the meeting held on 21-5-85 and is in constant touch with the State Government of West Bengal in the matter.

Statement

The Minister of Supply and Textiles had taken a meeting at Calcutta on 21st May, 1985 to discuss the problems of the jute industry when the representatives of jute mills management, Central trade unions, concerned Ministries of the Central Government and the Chief Minister and Labour

Minister of West Bengal were present. In the said meeting, the following important decisions were taken unanimously :

- (i) To fix a maximum statutory price of raw jute to curb speculative tendencies;
- (ii) To reduce the maximum stock holding level by mills;
- (iii) To take up the question of working capital requirement for jute mills with the Reserve Bank of India;
- (iv) To persuade concerned Ministries and Departments for increasing orders for B. T. will bags through DGS and D on the jute mills in order to boost demand for jute goods;
- (v) To intensify the drive for dehoarding of jute stocks with mills and traders;
- (vi) The Government of West Bengal was requested to consider reduction in working shifts from 21 to 18 in the jute mills;

- (vii) The Government of West Bengal was also urged to expedite conciliation proceedings for early settlement of industrial dispute in closed mills.

Orders for Import of Coins

2927. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of coins of different denominations for which orders have been placed on mints of various countries;

(b) whether the face value of the coins imported, will be more or less than the cost of minting, and the actual price charged for minting; and

(c) by which date the production of Indian Government mints will be able to meet the demand for coins and make import unnecessary ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) the information is given below :

Denomination	Number in Million pieces	Face value in Rupees	Name of the Mint/Firm and country
Re. 1	500	50 crores	M/s. Birmingham Mint products Ltd., U. K.
—do—	—do—	—do—	M/s. Royal Mint, U. K.
50P	750	37.5 crores	M/s. Hyundai Corporation, South Korea.
25P	250	6.25 crores	M/s. Royal Canadian Mint, Canada.
Total	2,000	143.75 crores	

(b) The face value of 2,000 million pieces of coin being imported comes to Rs. 143.75 crores and the total cost of import comes to around Rs. 64.96 crores.

(c) With the commissioning of the new mint at NOIDA by 1988-89, it is expected that Government would be able to meet the demand of coins fully from its own Mints.

Loss Suffered by Connought Circus Branch of New Bank of India

2928. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to a news item which appeared in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated the 12th July, 1985

under the caption 'kuch adhikariyon ki vajah se bank ke lakhon rupaye doob gaye' (Loss of lakhs of rupees to the bank due to officers) wherein it has been reported that due to the officers of the Connaught Circus 'A' Block Branch of New Bank of India, the bank had to suffer a loss of lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the action taken against the concerned officers of the Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The news item refers to an individual constituent of a bank. In terms of Section 13(1) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 and the practices and usages customary among bankers, the information relating to individual constituents of the banks cannot be divulged.

(c) The bank has reported that the Unit had become sick in 1974 itself and suffered losses. Therefore, no action against any officer was considered necessary by it.

[Translation]

Removal of Restriction on Export of Coarse Grains

2929. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) constituted by the Ministry and other large business organisations are pressurising the Government to remove the restriction imposed on the export of coarse grains (Sela and other varieties of coarse rice);

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment that the removal of this restriction will create starvation conditions in the country and if so, whether export will be allowed keeping in view this situation; and

(c) the reasons for pressure on Government by the traders and the said organisations in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Suggestions for

allowing export of non-basmati rice have been received by the Government. The policy for not allowing export of non-basmati rice continues unchanged.

[English]

Indian Exports to U.S.

2930. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scope for boosting Indian exports to the U.S.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). US with its global imports of US \$ 341 billion during 1984 is the single largest importing country in the world. India's share in the market, however, is very small and during 1984 it was about 0.7%. Thus scope exists for increasing exports to that market particularly in areas like readymade garments, processed diamonds and related jewellery, leather/leather manufactures, some engineering goods, etc.

The future for certain sectors, especially textile and engineering will however, depend upon the US Government's policy as in these sectors protectionist sentiments have been intensifying in that country.

Export of Mica

2931. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total tonnes of mica exported in 1984-85;

(b) whether Government have made efforts to remove the stagnation in mica exports;

(c) if so, the quantity of mica in tonnes expected to be exported in 1985-86; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the export of mica ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) During 1984-85, Mica Trading Corporation of India (MITCO), the

canalising agency for export of processed mica, exported approximately 18410 MTs of processed mica, valued at Rs. 25.70 crores.

(b) to (d). Due to technological changes in the world, the export of processed mica is gradually giving way to value-added for of mica, MITCO expects to export about 15000 tonnes of processed mica valued at Rs. 26 crores during 1985-86. Recent steps taken to increase export of mica are abolition of export duty on bridge mica blocks and promoting mica units manufacturing value-added products for exports. MITCO has in pursuance of this policy set up units for manufacture of silvered mica, mica powder and mica capacitors. Other value-added mica projects are also planned by MITCO.

Import of Edible Oil through STC

2932. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that edible oil is being imported through State Trading Corporation;

(b) the quantity and value of oil imported through State Trading Corporation during last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the present stock with the S.T.C. of edible oil;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a great difference between physical stock and book stock; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor and who is responsible for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of edible oil imported by STC during the last 3 years are as under :

Financial Year	Quantity Lakh (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1982-83	9.80	418.00
1983-84	14.09	846.00
1984-85	15.55	1286.00

(c) The physical stock of edible oils as on 21-7-1985 is approx. 2.49 lakhs MTs.

(d) and (e). The book stock and actual stock figures of financial year 1983-84 have been reconciled. During 1983-84, there was a total shortage of 15,950 MT valued at Rs. 914 lakhs. Regarding 1984-85, the reconciliation of figures is under progress. These shortages occur mainly during internal transit, storage, refining and processing, and tinning. In S.T.C.'s arrangements with storage, refining and tinning agents etc. shortage ceilings not due to their negligence are prescribed. Shortages in excess of the prescribed limit or due to negligence are duly claimed, and accounted for. Edible oils during internal transit are also duly covered for insurance and shortages are claimed from underwriters.

Applicability of Pension Scheme to Staff of SBI

2933. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether pension scheme is applicable to the staff of the State Bank of India; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce the pension scheme to the staff working in subsidiaries of State Bank of India i.e., State Bank of Mysore, etc. who are recruited through the same written test as the staff of State Bank of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) At present only one of the subsidiaries of State Bank of India viz. State Bank of Hyderabad is having a Pension Scheme. There is no proposal under consideration to introduce the pension scheme in the other subsidiaries of State Bank of India.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Bangalore City

2934. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks functioning in Bangalore city;

(b) whether branches of all the nationalised banks are therein every one or two kilometers distance in Bangalore city;

(c) the number of branches of nationalised banks functioning in Jayanagar Circle, Malleswam Circle and Kempegowda Road; and

(d) whether it is not a fact that branches of nationalised banks are not opened in rural area in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there are 390 branches of 24 Public Sector Banks in Bangalore city.

(b) The banks are expected to adhere to the distance norms laid down by Reserve Bank of India for residential and commercial localities. Reserve Bank of India has indicated that it would not be possible for it to confirm whether all the nationalised banks are functioning at every one or two Kilometers in Bangalore city.

(c) The required information is given below :

Name of locality	Number of branches of Nationalised Banks functioning
K. G. Road	14
Malleswaram	18
Jayanagar	18

(d) No, Sir. As at the end of February, 1985, there were 1137 branches of Public Sector Banks located at rural centres in Karnataka. In addition, Regional Rural Banks had also opened 902 branches in the rural areas of the State.

Interest charged by RBI from NABARD for Payment to Cooperative Banks

2935. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India from the NABARD on the money advanced for onwards payment to the State Cooperative Banks;

(b) the rate of interest charged by the NABARD from the State co-operative banks on the same amount given to them; and

(c) whether there is any difference in the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) With effect from 1st July, 1985 the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank of India on the general line of credit sanctioned to NABARD for providing refinance, short term loans and advances to its constituents including State Cooperative Banks for various approved purposes is 5.75%.

(b) NABARD provides short term loans and advances to State Cooperative Banks at different rates of interest depending upon the purpose for which the credit is provided. However, the bulk of short term loans are provided at an interest rate of 7 per cent per annum.

(c) The margin at present available to NABARD is 1.25% pnr annum. The margin to be provided to NABARD on the general line of credit is decided by the Reserve Bank of India taking into consideration the cost of various tasks such as refinance percentage, inspection of Cooperative Banks, institutional development, training facilities, collection and publication of statistical data, special studies etc.

Regular and casual workers in Coal Mines

2936. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) total number of regular and casual workers engaged in coal mines in India as on the 31st March, 1985;

(b) the total amount of wages paid to them for the year 1984-85;

(c) the total target of production in that year and the total utilisation of capacity; and

(d) per quintal coking coal price as on the 31st March, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is given

hereunder in respect of Coal India and Singareni Collieries Company :

	Coal India	Singareni Collieries Co.
1. No. of regular workers as on 31-3-1985	6,27,635	75,656
2. No. of Casual/Badli workers as on 31-3-1985	28,366	9,935
3. Total wages paid in 1984-85 (Fig. in crores of Rs.) (Approx.)	1187	159
4. Production Targets (in lakh tonnes)	1310.87	170
5. Capacity utilization in 1984-85	89%	77.53%

(d) As on 31-3-85, coking coal price varied from Rs. 17.50 to 46.00 per quintal depending on the grade.

(c) and (d). Financial assistance to sick textile and jute Mills is given primarily by banks and financial institutions on a case to case basis.

Closure of Jute Mills in West Bengal

2937. SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of jute mills closed upto 15th July, 1985 in West Bengal and workmen involved in it;

(b) the efforts made by Government to reopen the units;

(c) the total amount spent during 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 as financial support given to sick textile mills of Bombay and Ahmedabad; and

(d) the amount spent during those years for similar reasons for the sick jute mills of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The number of jute mills closed in West Bengal as on 15th July, 1985 was 17 affecting about 60,500 workers. (This is exclusive of 3 permanently closed jute mills involving 6,900 workers).

(b) A statement is given below.

Statement

In this connection it may be mentioned that the reason generally put by the jute mills management in the notice for recent lock-out/closure is industrial dispute. Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the State Govt. is the appropriate authority for dealing with such matters. It is understood that bipartite and tripartite conciliation proceedings are already in an advanced stage in the case of a number of jute mills. Five jute mills in West Bengal have re-opened/lifted lockout after 15th July, 1985 upto 6-8-85.

The Minister of Supply and Textiles also took a meeting, on crisis in jute industry, at Calcutta on 21-5-1985 when the representatives of central labour unions, jute mills management, concerned Ministries of the Central Government and the Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal were present. Some important decisions were taken in the said meeting to facilitate re-opening of closed jute mills. The Minister of Supply and Textiles also called the representatives of Indian Jute Mills Association to Delhi in early June, 1985 for exploring the possibility of early re-opening of some of the closed jute mills. The Central Government have taken action to implement

the decisions taken at the meeting held on 21-5-85 and is in constant touch with the State Government of West Bengal in the matter. Vigorous efforts are being made to hasten the process of reopening of remaining closed mills and for this purpose Secretary (Textiles) has also taken a meeting with representatives of closed jute mills in West Bengal on 8th August, 1985 at Calcutta.

Six jute mills in West Bengal reopened till 7th August, 1985.

Insurance cover to Rubber Growers

2938. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide insurance cover to rubber growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. However, a scheme for insuring rubber plantations situated in Kerala State is already in operation.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Pig Iron

2939. SHRI AMARSINH PATHAWA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a shortage of pig iron in the country and many small scale units are facing great difficulty to get it to run their units, particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) the reasons for this shortage of pig iron; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide the sufficient quantity of pig iron to small scale units to save them from closure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The pig iron requirements of small scale units are generally met by Small Industries Corporations of respective States/Union Territories from out of supplies received by these

Corporations against the allocations made by Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta. During first quarter of 1985-86, supplies of 1.02 lakh tonnes fell short of allocations of 1.4 lakh tonnes mainly due to movement problems in South and disturbed conditions in Gujarat.

In case of Gujarat supplies during April-June, 1985 of 21,100 tonnes fell short of the allocations of 41,500 tonnes because of disturbed condition in the State. However, during July 1985, 11,200 tonnes of pig iron has been despatched to Gujarat and during August, 1985 another 13,000 tonnes is expected to be despatched.

Domestic availability of pig iron is being supplemented by imports through the canalising agency, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited.

Poor utilisation of World Bank loan by Madhya Pradesh

2940. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has been asked to examine the issue regarding the poor utilization of the World Bank loan sanctioned for on-going projects in the State;

(b) whether any reply has since been received from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir. However, we have been addressing the Madhya Pradesh Government about slippages in the utilisation of loan/credit in individual projects from time to time.

(b) and (c). Madhya Pradesh Government has indicated that they are taking steps to utilise the entire loan/credit before the date of closure. In certain cases where re-scheduling is necessary we have been requesting the World Bank for extension of the date of closure to enable full utilisation of loan/credit.

Grant of Andaman special allowance to Bank Employees

2942. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the bank employees working in Andaman and Nicobar Islands about their case for grant of Andaman special allowance, compensatory allowance and special area allowance applicable to the transferrable Government servants working in North-Eastern Region and Andaman; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In regard to payment of special allowances to officers and workmen posted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Government have received a request from the Indian Banks' Association for issue of guidelines by Government in respect of officers and for conveying Government's permission for modifying its settlements with the workmen unions, in line with Government instructions on the subject. The matter is receiving Government's attention.

Revival of Post of Executive Directors in Public Sector Banks

2943. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any move to revive the post of executive directors in all public sector banks;

(b) if so, the considerations which have led to this move for revival;

(c) the steps being taken to avoid differences and clashes between Chairman and executive director on policy matters so that the functioning of banks is not adversely affected; and

(d) the time by which all appointments are expected to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b).

The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemrs of 1970 and 1980 provide that Government may appoint two whole time Directors on any nationalised bank—one of whom would be Managing Director. The provision to appoint a second whole-time Director—designated Executive Director—had not been deleted and, therefore, the question of the revival of this post does not arise.

(c) Chairman and Managing Director and Executive Director are two whole-time Directors of a bank. The former being the highest executive and the latter the second highest executive in a bank, appointed by the Government, are expected to work together to conduct the operations of the bank efficiently in all aspects. While some differences in opinion and approach are natural, Government would take appropriate steps, when considered necessary, if it is felt that such differences are affecting the bank adversely.

(d) The appointment of an Executive Director and timing of such appointment would depend upon the needs and circumstances of individual banks.

Finalisation of Accounts of Lakshmi Commercial Bank

2944. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the accounts of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Limited, Delhi as on 31st December, 1984 and further as on 30 June, 1985 have not been made up-to-date properly reconciled and finalised before the decision of its merger;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to have the accounts properly finalised and audited before the decision of its merger with any nationalised bank is implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Pursuant to the request made by Lakshmi Commercial Bank Limited, Government have granted it under section 53 of the Banking

Regulation Act, 1949, exemption from the provisions of section 31 of the said Act till July 31, 1985 which would allow the bank to finalise its accounts by that date.

(c) Reserve Bank has approved the proposals of the Bank for the appointment of statutory auditors and Branch Auditors for the year 1984. The Reserve Bank of India has also nominated auditors for auditing the balance sheet of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Ltd. as on the date of the moratorium and as on the date immediately preceding the prescribed date upto which the moratorium is in operation.

Proposal to dereserve mining areas for exploitation by Private Sector

2945. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to dereserve some mining areas for exploitation by the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the financial and other benefits likely to accrue to Government by making this change in policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) and (b). The Minister Advisory Council had recommended the preparation of a list

of mineral bearing areas reserved for public sector undertaking, and the holding of a dialogue with the public sector undertakings if these are not required by them in foreseeable future. A Committee has been constituted in the Department of Mines to go into the various aspects of this issue and to submit its report.

(c) An assessment of the monetary benefit which would accrue to the Government is not possible at this stage as the Committee has yet to submit its report.

Rise in Ash Content of Coking Coal

2946. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the average ash content of our coking coal delivered to the Steel Plants has risen from around 19 per cent to 24 per cent in the last six years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it has affected the production in the Steel Plants; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) to (c). The ash content of coking coal supplied to steel plants has shown an increase in respect of some washeries and decrease in respect of some others during the last six years as indicated below. There has been distinct improvement in 1984-85 as compared to 1983-84;

Ash Percentage in Washed Coal in CIL Washerries as Analysed at the Steel Plants

Washery	79-80	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dugda-I	22.1	23.4	22.2	22.1	22.9	22.1
Dugda-II	22.4	23.1	22.3	22.7	23.0	22.0
Bhojudih	19.1	19.7	20.5	21.0	21.8	21.1
Patherdih	22.1	22.2	22.7	22.1	22.6	22.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sudamdih	Nil	18.8	19.3	20.7	21.4	21.5
Moonidih	—	—	—	—	17.8	18.6
Barora	—	—	—	—	19.9	20.3
Kargali	18.1	18.2	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.1
Kathara	19.6	19.3	18.8	19.3	18.6	19.1
Swang	20.0	20.4	18.9	18.6	18.2	19.2
Gidi	20.6	21.6	19.6	19.3	19.3	19.7

The increase in ash content of Coking Coal affects the productivity of the Blast furnaces but exact extent varies from Steel Plant to Steel Plant. However, generally it is stated that 1% increase in ash content affects production of hot metal by about 3%.

CIL have taken following remedial measures for improving the quality of coal delivered to the Steel Plants :

1. Elimination of extraneous impurities in the feed coal and stringent quality control.
2. Elimination of offending sources of supply of raw coal feed which have been identified.
3. Better management of existing washeries, assuring optimisation in performance levels.
4. Modernisation of existing washeries where necessary, assigning high priority.
5. Ensuring that the new washeries which have been commissioned and were proposed to be commissioned during the 7th Plan are operated to achieve designed levels of performance.
6. Introducing new technologies in coal beneficiation.

State Bank of India as authorised agents of certain Banks of South Africa

2947. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India is the authorised agent of Barclays, the top-most bank of South Africa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chartered Bank which operates India, has been amalgamated with Standard, the second-top-most bank of South Africa; and

(c) if so, how do the above actions reconcile with Government policy of economic boycott of the apartheid regime of South Africa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Barclays Bank Ltd. is a leading British Bank incorporated in the United Kingdom. State Bank of India and several other Indian Banks have a correspondent relationship with Barclays Bank Ltd.

(b) The Reserve Bank have reported that the capital of Chartered Bank, established by Royal Charter in 1853, was taken over in 1970 by a holding company, Standard and Chartered Banking Group Ltd. In 1975 the U.K. Business of the bank was transferred to Standard and Chartered Bank PLC. In pursuance of an Act passed by the British Parliament entitled "Standard Chartered Bank Act, 1984" certain reorganisation has occurred in the banking business of Standard Chartered Bank PLC. At the request of the Bank's Chief Executive Officer in India, and on the confirmation of its solicitors in U.K. to the effect that the bank would retain its existing Charter, that no new Charter was to be issued to it and that it was only a question of change of name from the Chartered Bank to Standard Chartered Bank, Reserve Bank

notified on 1-1-1985 the change of the Bank's name from "The Chartered Bank" to "Standard Chartered Bank".

(c) Does not arise.

Public Sector Tea Undertakings under one Umbrella

2948. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring all the Central Public Sector tea undertakings under one Umbrella;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made, if any, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Efforts made to explore International Market for Handloom

2949. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special effort is being made to explore international market for handloom and exploit domestic market in a more scientific way; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The following are the main steps taken for boosting the exports of handloom goods in international market :

- (i) The Handloom Export Promotion Council participates in special fairs and exhibitions and buyer-seller meets and also undertakes market studies.
- (ii) Feed-back information on colour and design from abroad is disseminated among manufacturers/exporters to improve the marketability of handloom goods.

(iii) Cash Compensatory Support is available for handloom products.

(iv) Under REP licences, imports of essential inputs are permitted.

The following are the main steps taken for exploiting domestic markets :

(i) Publicity through television, All India Radio and other mass media.

(ii) Printing of technical booklets, brochures, diaries, calendars etc., giving information about handlooms and technological improvements thereof.

(iii) Installation of boardings at major cities and tourist centres.

Problems of Ancillary Units at Rourkela

2950. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-cooperation attitude of Rourkela Steel Plant management towards the ancillary units set up in and around Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons why Rourkela Steel Plant management is not assisting the ancillary small scale industries; and

(c) the steps taken to examine the problems of ancillary units set up at Rourkela ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). It is not correct that Rourkela Steel Plant is not co-operating with the ancillary units set up in and around Rourkela Steel Plant. In fact, the value of orders placed on ancillary/small-scale industries in and around Rourkela have increased during the last five years as can be seen from the following figures :

Year	Value of orders placed (in Rs. crores)
1980-81	7.60
1981-82	10.37
1982-83	11.63
1983-84	11.25
1984-85	12.23
	(Provisional)

The orders on ancillary/small-scale units have increased despite the fact that overall ordering by Rourkela Steel Plant has declined considerably since 1981-82 as a measure to control inventories.

(c) The Management of Rourkela Steel Plant has taken the following steps to solve the problems of ancillary/small-scale units set up at Rourkela :

- (1) The problems faced by these units are discussed in the Plant level Advisory Committee Meetings taken by Managing Director of the Plant and is attended by the representatives of industry associations, State Government and the concerned officials of the plant.
- (2) A system of weekly meetings between the executives of materials management department of Rourkela Steel Plant and Additional Director of Industries, Rourkela has been introduced so as to increase the number of enquiries to be issued to the local units.
- (3) A sub-Committee under the chairmanship of General Manager (Materials management) has also been constituted which meets regularly and the problems being faced by the small-scale/ancillary units are resolved in these meetings.

Recently, in plant level advisory committee meeting held on 29-5-1985, a package of incentives like price escalation, waiver of liquidated damages clause and introduction of rate contract-system were announced in order to help ancillary/small-scale units around Rourkela.

Allotment of Coal to non-care Sector

2951. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Coal Merchants Association have urged Government to allot more coal to the non-care sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coal required by the consumers is moved both by rail and road. The consuming sectors having lower priority in rail movement do not get their full requirements by rail due to the need for moving coal by rail on higher priority to the core sector consumers. The consumers in the non-core sectors are, therefore, allowed to lift the balance requirement by road. Efforts are also being made to reach coal to the small consumers through stock yards by assigning higher priority to them.

Revamping of Public Enterprises Selection Board and Bureau of Public Enterprises

2952. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to revamp the functioning of Public Enterprises Selection Board and the Bureau of Public Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Based on the Recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of the then Member (Industry), Planning Commission, the Government have recently re-defined the role and functions of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Like all other Ministries/Departments, the performance of Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Public Enterprises Selection Board is continually reviewed by the Government and appropriate action is taken, from time to time, to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

Increase in Prices of Copper and Nickel by M.M.T.C.

2953. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have raised the prices of copper and nickel recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). MMTC raised the

prices of copper and nickel in May, 1985 and June, 1985 due to appreciation of Pound Sterling *vis-à-vis* Indian Rupee. However, in July, 1985 and August, 1985 prices were reduced in most of the categories.

Assistance to Growers of Cardamom of Kerala

2954. SHRI P. A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give assistance to the growers of cash crop cardamom who have lost their crops in the recent floods and landslides in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). On receipt of a memorandum from the Government of Kerala seeking Central Assistance for floods affected areas a Central Study Team visited the flood affected areas (including cardamom) for making an on-the-spot study. The report of the Team has been received, which is under examination in the Ministry of Agriculture. It is not possible to indicate the details of recommended sanction at this stage.

Loans to Group Housing Societies by Public Sector Banks

2955. SHRI P. A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow public sector banks to give loans to group housing societies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In terms of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, Cooperative Societies are eligible for housing finance within the quantum earmarked for the banking sector. According to the existing guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India on housing finance, scheduled commercial banks are expected to grant loans to the extent of 0.5% of the total advances as on a particular date of the previous year for house construction activities. The present amount

earmarked for the housing finance for one year is Rs. 150 crores, out of which the banks are required to sanction an amount of Rs. 65 crores by way of direct finance to eligible borrowers at the specified rates. Co-operative Group Housing Societies are covered under the eligible category of borrowers under housing finance.

Handloom Cloth Worth Rs. 5 crores lying unsold in Kerala

2956. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 5 crores worth of handloom cloth are lying unsold in Kerala;

(b) whether this has created a crisis situation in the handloom sector in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). As reported by the State Government of Kerala, there is a stock of handloom cloth worth Rs. 20 crores with Kerala Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Kerala Handloom Weavers Apex Primary Society and Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation. This stock is procured and kept for sale during special rebate periods allowed by the State Government.

(c) The State Government has taken a number of steps to clear the accumulated stock of handloom cloth by enhancing the number of days of special rebates to 101 days per year during the last 3 years, allot credit sales to Government employees and other public institutions. They have also promoted the sales for handloom through mobile vans the interior places of Kerala and at exhibitions/sales stalls organised in the District. Centres/Taluk Headquarters and other places throughout the State. The State Government has also opened some more handloom retail outlets in the State.

Meeting of Chief Ministers of States on Overdrafts

2957. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had decided to call a meeting of Chief Ministers of those States which had overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the meeting was called and if so, the outcome of that meeting; and

(c) whether a list giving details of overdrafts of each State resorted by them during 1984-85 and upto ending June 1985 be placed on the table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (b). The Finance Minister had discussions with some of the Chief Ministers of States which had overdrafts with the Reserve Bank of India. Subsequent to these discussions, the Centre had decided to convert 90% of the States' overdrafts as on 28-1-1985 into a medium term loan repayable in 4 years commencing from 1986-87. The balance 10% has to be eliminated by States through their own efforts by 1st October, 1985.

(c) A statement showing the States' overdrafts as on 31-3-1985 and as on 26-6-1985 is given below :

Statement

Statement showing overdrafts of States

(Rs. crores)

States	Overdraft as on	
	31-3-1985 (adjusted)	26-6-1985
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	172.21	94.62
2. Assam	150.10	33.44
3. Bihar	46.68	—
4. Gujarat	10.49	16.20
5. Haryana	91.16	36.47
6. Himachal Pradesh	24.16	—
7. Jammu and Kashmir*	—	—
8. Karnataka	214.57	148.15
9. Kerala	174.50	199.01
10. Madhya Pradesh	180.00	—
11. Maharashtra	—	—
12. Manipur	26.05	—
13. Meghalaya	—	—
14. Nagaland	37.73	2.36
15. Orissa	50.13	16.91

1	2	3
16. Punjab	78.19	82.79
17. Rajasthan	—	—
18. Sikkim*	—	—
19. Tamil Nadu	19.62	—
20. Tripura	—	—
21. Uttar Pradesh	372.40	163.70
22. West Bengal	140.72	138.56
Total	1738.71	982.21

*Do not Bank with Reserve Bank of India.

Reasons for Less Production of Raw Jute in the Country

2958. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of raw jute is decreasing in the country as a result of which Government have to import it from foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the reasons for less production of jute is the exploitation of jute producers by mill owners by not paying them reasonable price;

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking any action so far against the exploiting mill owners; and

(d) if action has been taken, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) There have been wide year to year fluctuations in production of raw jute in the country. As a result of four successive short jute crops from 1981-82 to 1984-85 seasons. Government had to arrange for import of a small quantity of about 1.60 lakh bales of raw jute from abroad during 1984-85 season to supplement the domestic supplies. This was besides the usual import of a small quantity of raw jute from Nepal under OGL and imports made by 100% Export Oriented Units. During the current jute season

1985-86, a bumper jute crop of about 85 lakh bales is expected.

(b) The raw jute prices had ruled well above the minimum statutory prices announced by the Government during 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons. Fluctuation in production of raw jute in the country in the recent years may be attributed, to a great extent to adverse weather conditions.

(c) and (d). Government announces minimum support prices every season to safeguard the interest of jute growers and the Jute Corporation of India is assigned the task of maintaining the minimum support price all over the country.

Performance of Rourkela Steel Plant

2959. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant is maintaining its production satisfactorily;

(b) if so, to what rate and capacity and since when, and whether better prospects of West German financial aid for the plant's expansion from 1.8 to 2.5 million tonnes during Seventh Five Year Plan appeared promising as per targets; and

(c) if so, the details regarding its progress and performance at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The production of saleable steel at Rourkela Steel Plant is satisfactory, considering the power problems being faced by the plant

during the last few years, the present raw materials (including coking coal) and the health of equipment. The production of saleable steel over the past three years has been as under :

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Annual rated capacity	Plan	Actual production	% of fulfilment to	
				Plan	Capacity
1982-83	1225	1001	992	99.1	81
1983-84	1225	838	863	103	70
1984-85	1225	940	1013	108	83

During the current year (April-July, 1985), production of saleable steel was adversely affected due to power restrictions imposed by Orissa State Electricity Board (OSEB). The loss of saleable steel production on account of power shortage has been 1,50,300 tonnes during this period.

There is no proposal for expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant during the VII Plan. However, there is a proposal for renovation and technological upgradation of the plant which is under consideration of Government. A decision on its financing would be taken only after Government approvals have been accorded after the VII Plan allocations of the steel sector are finalised.

Inquiry into the Sensational Currency

2960. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Blitz of 18th May, 1985 wherein it has been stated that inquiry into the sensational currency racket involving three persons Mrugesh Jayakraishna, his wife Paru and Chandrokanta C. Amin which came to the light on 19th March, 1985 when alleged attempt to smuggle 46 lakhs in cash foiled has been hushed up; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Government have seen the news item referred to in the question. The news item, however, does nowhere state that the inquiry in this case has been hushed up. The foreign currency of Rs. 46.63 lakhs recovered on 19th March, 1985 has already been seized. Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna, Asutosd Prafulchandra Nanavathy and Chandrakant Sivabhai Amin who were arrested in connection with smuggling of foreign currency were subsequently detained under the Cofeposa Act. Further investigations are in progress and appropriate action as warranted under the law would be taken against all the persons involved.

Financing Sick Textile Units

2961. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS
MUNSI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY
AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to finance few sick textile mills of Bombay and Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and took it over; and

(b) if so, the reasons why similar efforts are not made to help the sick textile units of Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government of India to take over any sick textile mill in Bombay or Ahmedabad

recently. A Group of Officers is looking into the problems of closed mills in all the States.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of N.T.C.

2962. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a programme of the National Textiles Corporation for its modernisation of Rs. 302 crores as reported in the 'Economic Times' of July 13, 1985;

(b) whether this Plan will make N.T.C. mills viable;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the ways N.T.C. propose to finance this Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) National Textile Corporation had estimated a requirement of Rs. 302 crores for modernisation and suggested a plan provision accordingly.

(b) and (c). Selective modernisation programme would have to be adopted for best utilisation of limited resources. Mill-wise schemes have not been finalised so far.

(d) The Planning Commission has so far indicated an outlay of Rs. 117 crores for modernisation and rationalisation of labour schemes of NTC, during the 7th Plan period.

Adjudication Cases in Respect of Excise and Customs of M/s. Modi Stones and Cigarette Units

2963. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of excise and customs are pending adjudications against M/s. Modi Stones and cigarette units of Modi Group of Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the question refers to M/s. Bombay Tyres International Limited, manufactures of Modistone tyres and M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited, Bombay, a cigarette company of the Modi Group of Industries. No offence case is pending for adjudication in respect of M/s. Bombay Tyres International Limited. Four offence cases are pending adjudication against M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited—three cases of under valuation of excisable goods and one case regarding removal of excisable goods without payment of duty.

[Translation]

Advancing of Loans by Indian Overseas Bank Karol Bagh, New Delhi

2964. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that in Indian Overseas Bank, Karol Bagh, New Delhi loans have been advanced to even those parties which do not fulfil requisite eligibilities;

(b) the number of persons/firms given overdraft facility by this bank during 1984 as also the number of persons/firms who are entitled for overdraft facility to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs but have been given overdraft of Rs. 1½ crores to 2 crores by the bank officers;

(c) the number of such cases and the particulars of the parties which have expressed their inability to repay the loan; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the bank/Ministry to realise the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the bank no person/firm with an entitlement of only Rs. 40 lakh over-draft facility has been permitted to draw Rs. 1.50 crores to Rs. 2.00 crores.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Seizure of goods worth Rs. 2 crore by Revenue Intelligence from Ship at Bombay

2965. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether contraband goods—mainly textiles, VCRs and wrist watches worth about Rs. 2 crores were seized by the Revenue Intelligence officials from a ship which arrived at Bombay port from Singapore on July 12, 1985;

(b) if so, the full details of the goods seized;

(c) whether any persons have been detained in this connection; and

(d) if so, the particulars of the persons detained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). On 12th/13th July, 1985, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Bombay examined four containers which had arrived from Singapore by ship "Jamuna Pioneer" manifested to contain 1200 drums of acrylamide and seized the following goods alongwith four containers valued at Rs. 2 lakhs :

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

Goods	Quantity	(Market value)
1. Textiles	227188.5 yards	73.05
2. VCRs	701 Pcs.	91.65
3. Watches	37,300 Pcs.	27.76
4. Acrylamide (in 100 Drums)	5000 Kgs.	3.50
5. Misc. goods		0.20
Total		196.16

(c) No, Sir, not so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Iron Ore by IISCO from Private Mines

2966. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the management of Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. instead of buying iron ore from its own captive mines at Chiria and Manoharpur, has been making purchases from private mines in Borbil, Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the management took sanction of the Ministry or Steel Authority of India Ltd. before resorting to such irregular practice; and

(c) whether this is to satisfy the Barbil mine owners who are complaining of inadequate prices paid by National Mineral Development Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (c). Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited is making optimal use of iron ore from its captive mines at Gua and Chiria/Manoharpur. Iron ore from these captive mines constitute 70% of the total iron ore consumed, at IISCO.

The iron ore from Gua and Chiria/Manoharpur is inherently soft and friable in nature with low iron content and adverse alumina/silica ratio. Since IISCO does not have the facility of a sinter plant, it is technologically necessary to mix hard ore of better alumina/silica ratio. This hard ore

with lower alumina/silica ratio is not available at Gua/Chiria/Manoharpur and hence IISCO purchases iron ore from the MMTC and OMDC which are both public sector companies.

(b) Purchase of Iron ore by IISCO from sources other than captive for sweetening the blast furnace burden is in accordance with the linkage plan approved by the Steel Authority of India Limited.

Raising additional resources for Power Sector

2967. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's scheme to float bonds by the Central Power Sector undertakings has proved to be a failure;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether the undertakings are now raising additional resources through the capital market at an economic cost;

(d) whether the Government's directive that these bonds should carry attractive rates of interest will ultimately prove a heavy burden on these undertakings;

(e) whether the undertakings also feel that floating of bonds will not prove to be a wise method of raising additional resources; and

(f) whether the Government after having various considerations in view, concluded that these enterprises should be allowed to enter the capital market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (f). No guidelines have as yet been formulated by Government to allow the public sector units to float bonds at reasonable interest rate coupled with tax benefits. All aspects will be taken care of in finalising guidelines in this regard.

[Translation]

Complaints regarding implementation of self employment scheme

2968. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints that under the self-employment scheme, even some employed persons are taking benefit of the money given by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by Government;

(c) whether Government have also received complaints that due to non-realisation of loans given under the self-employment scheme, crores of rupees of the nationalised banks are likely to be written off;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In a scheme which is being implemented on a large scale throughout the country, there may always be a few complaints regarding delay/non-sanctioning of loans, faulty distribution of loans and availment of loans by non-eligible persons. However, complaint whenever received are not looked into with a view to taking suitable remedial action.

(c) to (e). The Scheme for providing self-employment to the unemployed educated youth had been initiated only in the year 1983-84. The amount fallen due for repayment will obviously be quite small. There are no circumstances/reasons to warrant the conclusion that loans given under the scheme are likely to be written off in a large measure.

[English]

Negotiation with Pakistan for Supply of Fertilizer

2969. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a deal was negotiated for the supply of fertilizer from Pakistan as against wheat from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deal came through; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The possibility of a deal for purchase of 200,000 tonnes of urea from Pakistan and supply of an equivalent quality of wheat to that country was explored.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Pakistan side had indicated that their requirements of wheat had already been covered from other sources and they had no additional requirement.

Accident Insurance Scheme

2970. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to launch an accident insurance scheme in the country;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view the health and safety of the workers, Government propose to introduce such a scheme; and

(c) when the said scheme will be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Scheme will, to begin with, be introduced in 100 districts in the country, selected in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories.

(b) The industrial workers in the country are generally covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 or the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 which provide for payment of compensation/benefits in all cases of employment injury. There is no

proposal at present to introduce a separate accident insurance scheme for such workers.

(c) Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for the Poor Families is being introduced with effect from 15-8-1985, in the first phase, in 78 districts in the country which have been selected in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories.

12.00 hrs.

HOMAGE TO THE MARTYRS OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today the ninth of August, our memory goes back to that historic day when the very important and I think the last battle for freedom was started in Bombay by the Quit India Resolution.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It was started at an appropriate place.

MR. SPEAKER : Right. We also pay our tributes to Maharashtrians.

We remember and pay our respectful homage to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the freedom of the country in that freedom movement at that time. There have been innumerable people who, without having come to the knowledge of the general public, laid down their lives. But nevertheless, their martyrdom paved the way for us to have this independent democratic country.

We must—I think the whole House approves of it, we had a meeting early this morning with all the group leaders in the House—ask the Government and the Government, I think, should also respond in putting up a very fine memorial to the martyrs as well as to the freedom fighters who were instrumental in the salvation of all of us.

I also feel that this is an auspicious day on which we should all vow once again and take a pledge that we shall not forget the ideals for which they fought and suffered and we shall also try to keep up the democratic rights and the privileges conferred

by that independence on all of us in this country.

Now, we may stand in silence for a short while to pay our homage to those martyrs who laid down their lives.

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Tewary?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : I have given a notice. You must have seen a very disquieting report in the newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER : What motion have you given ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : You must have seen a very disquieting report in the newspapers that some commandós extremist commandos, who are highly motivated and have been trained in Pakistan, have entered Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask for the facts.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Their purpose is to create violence.

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider it. I will ask the Home Minister.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Please ask the Home Minister to.....

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask. I have told you. I have already taken notice. I will get the facts and talk to the Home Minister.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Yesterday, in the Central Hall, which is the property of the whole House, Mr. Shafi, *(Interruptions)* Let me finish my submission.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Rendering an apology is not enough. He is a very old man. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a disgrace to Parliament.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : We must condemn this*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to me. Please take your seat. It has pained me and you

also. It has pained the old and the new Members of Parliament. I agree it is not proper. He is a member of the Upper House. Bhagatji had a talk with Shri Muttoo. A person repents only when he makes a mistake or does something wrong. After this no punishment is called for. You are large hearted so you should be liberal. If anyone tenders an apology, he should be pardoned.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think what more can be done in this respect. You are a follower of Bapuji. He used to say that if anyone slapped you then you should turn the other cheek also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now what has happened to you ? Please take your seat.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Has he offered an apology ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I say. Mr. Muttu will himself apologise and regret in the Upper House and here on his behalf and on behalf of his party Mr. Kabuli will apologise to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER : Muttemwarji what are you doing ? The matter has ended. There is a limit to every thing.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the incident which took place in the Central Hall, to which you had also referred, I had conveyed to you our regret and, also, we had a talk with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Bhagat, in this respect. I think the incident which took place in the Central Hall was very painful and regrettable. Our Party, the National Conference, does not endorse what had happened there on the part of our Member Ghulam Rasool Muttu. It was not at all proper.

We should maintain the dignity of the Central Hall and Parliament at all cost. We have great regret for the high-handedness on

the part of the Member belonging to our party. So far as Muttoo Sahib is concerned, he is a Member of Parliament. He and Chaudhari Mohammad Shafi both belong to our State. Chaudhari Sahib is a veteran freedom fighter. We have great regard for him. He took part in the freedom movement working shoulder to shoulder with Sheikh Sahib. Unfortunately, something has happened with him for which I think he should not be swayed by emotions. What has happened was wrong. (*Interruptions*) He should not be swayed by emotions. The Central Hall and Parliament are exposed to public gaze. The press correspondents do not spare us and the people come to know about our activities through them. So, I think the matter should end here. I on behalf of Shri Muttoo and our party offer regrets for the incident. The matter should end here.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, what is the matter ?

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1985; Review and Annual Report of the General Insurance of India, Bombay for the year ending 31st December 1984; Report of the Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 559 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1985 under sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.
- (2) A copy of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Second Amendment) Scheme, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification

No. S.O. 560 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 1985 under sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1278/85].

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1984.

- (ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1984 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1279/85].

A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Report of the Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1280/85].

- (ii) Report of the Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pratapgarh, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1281/85].

- (iii) Report of the Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatna, for the year ended 31st December, 1983

together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1282/85]

- (iv) Report of the Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratangiri, for the year ended 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1283/85].

- (v) Report of the Akola Gramin Bank, Akola, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1284/85].

- (vi) Report of the Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1285/85].

- (vii) Report of the Mizoram Rural Bank, Mizoram, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1286/85].

- (viii) Report of the Marwar Gramin Bank, Mizoram, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1287/85].

- (ix) Report of the Htmachal Gramin Bank, Mandi, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1288/85].

- (x) Report of the Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1289/85]

- (xi) Report of the Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1290/85].

- (xii) Report of the Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat, for the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1291/85].

- (xiii) Report of the Bolangir, Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir, the year ended the 31st December, 1983 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1292/85].

Export Inspection Agency (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1985, Audit Report on the accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1981-82

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Export Inspection Agency (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 722 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1985 under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1293/85].

- (2) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1981-82 (Pool Fund).
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the report mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1294/85].

12.08 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Bill, 1985

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 8th August, 1985, agreed without any amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th August, 1985."

12.09 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

[English]

Eighth Report and Minutes

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Commerce—Tobacco Board and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : For the last several days I have been requesting you for a discussion on the implication of the Supreme Court judgement...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said it. I have already given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is bound to come.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Shri Sri Hari Rao.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will you kindly explain to us what is your objection ?

MR. SPEAKER : My objection is only the time limit. I will consider, I am considering his request and I will see to it....

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You go through it, I shall also go through it, then we shall see.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What is the reason that you are not allowing it...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : It is all given there. We shall see whether to allow it or not...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will come before the House...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anything.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It shall be taken up but at the proper time.

[English]

Everything will take its own time. It will come.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

Even I cannot stop it.

(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Are you going to browbeat me ? It is my ruling...

(Interruptions)**

I am not going to be browbeaten by you....

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Srihari Rao...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No, I won't give any assurance...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will do it according to the rules...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not bound to give reason. Will you take your seat now. I am not going to give the reason and you cannot ask me the reason. Sit down now...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Nothing will go on record...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No recording at all...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anything...

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It will be taken up at the appropriate time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody is going to be dismissed...

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Who is doing, please sit down.

[English]

I am not yielding to anybody...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sahib, I am not allowing anything. Nothing is going on record...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This is my own way. I am led by my own judgement...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record and nobody is allowed...

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is the use of it. Shri Srihari Rao may please speak.

[English]

I am not going to allow anything...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow a discussion when the time comes...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going to happen. Not a single person is going to be dismissed. Sit down. Take your seats...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have seen the judgement, I have talked about this and I know nothing is going to happen...

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow a discussion when time comes.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want me to work or not ? Do you want me to adjourn the House ?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You will have it when the time comes.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I do not give any promise. I will get it according to the time and according to the rules.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. You will get it according to the time.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed them.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. I shall do it according to the rules.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : When it comes to me I will see.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This will be according to the rules.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record. I have not allowed anybody. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is for you to decide. In case you want the proceedings to go further, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will not be brow-beaten by anybody.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No question is to be answered.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Let them. I am not barring them to have their views. They can have their ideas. They are welcome to have it.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may take one hour or five hours.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will have it according to the rules.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No questions I have not allowed them.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to budge an inch. What I say is final.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. Sit down. I cannot tell you. I am going to decide about it when time comes.

(Interruptions)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In the coming Business Advisory Committee meeting please consider this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You consider it again. No problem. I have never asked you not to consider it. I would welcome it any time.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will always consider and I yield on what I think is proper.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

12.20 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, it will not be taken up.

[English]

That is all right, if you take it like that. That is my job.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Rao.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member speak and all of you may please sit down.

(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing has been allowed. I have not allowed anyone. Now, Mr Rao.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Reported alarming increase in population in the country

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported alarming increase in population in the country and the steps taken by the Government to curb its growth."

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the importance of bringing about fast decline in the population growth rate is well recognised by the Government. Reduction in growth rate is a critical factor in socio-economic development of the country and it is in recognition of this fact that Population Control Programme has been integrated with the overall development planning process.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The National Health Policy which was approved by the Parliament lays down the long term demographic goals to be achieved by the year 2000 A.D. These are birth rate of 21, death rate of 9 and infant mortality rate below 60. In order to achieve these goals it would be necessary to reach a couple protection rate of at least 60%. Reduction in infant mortality rate is a key factor in promoting widespread acceptance of small family norm. People must be assured that the children born to them will survive to convince them to take up the family planning. The maternal and child health care programme has, therefore, been made an integrated part of the Family Welfare Programme.

India's population has more than doubled itself since Independence. The 1981 Census figures placing the country's population at 685 million also revealed certain redeeming facts. For instance, the decadal growth rate which had steadily increased from 13.31% in 1941-51 to 24.8% in 1961-71 has been steadied around 25% in 1971-81. The Family Welfare Programme however received a serious set back during the late '70s. The couple protection rate declined from 23.6% in March, 1977 to 22.2% in March, 1980. During the Sixth Plan vigorous efforts were made to put the Programme back on rails. These efforts were backed by full political commitment and support, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would be glad to know that as a result of the work done during the Sixth Plan the couple protection rate is estimated to have reached around 32% in March, 1985. Although we consider this as a good achievement but we are not allowing ourselves to be led into any state of complacency. The tasks ahead are much more challenging. During the 7th Plan we aim at reaching the couple protection rate of 42% and we hope to achieve this goal.

Control of population depends mainly on some of the key factors such as increase in the age at marriage of women; appropriate spacing between marriage, the first child and the second child; and, keeping the family size to two or less children. Due to various socio-economic, cultural and historical factors

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]

girls in India get married at an early age and the desired family size is more than 3 with almost universal need for male children. With growing modernisation and development people will change their way of life and opt for lesser number of children. This will be a long term process. Our Programme aims at accelerating the process of change in peoples' beliefs, attitudes and habits so as to bring about a more swift decline in the birth rate. This we seek to do through increasing the demand for contraception and providing easy services and supplies. The ultimate success of the Programme will depend upon the involvement of the community in ever increasing measure and the provision of high quality services. Government is constantly appraising the Programme with a view to identifying major problem areas and adopting appropriate strategies. We have recently taken some new initiatives which I would like to briefly enumerate. We have taken various steps to secure the maximum involvement of various sections of the community including elected representatives of the people, intellectuals, professionals, non-government organisations and institutions in the organised sector. We are redevising our strategy for bringing about an accelerated demand generation through the involvement of professional agencies. The technological advances recently made in the mass media will be fully exploited in spreading the message of small family in an effective manner. Various measures have been initiated to improve the management of the Programme with a view to obtaining an optimum output from the existing infrastructure. The system of monitoring the programme performance and evaluating its impact is being streamlined. As a result of all these measures taken the programme performance during the current year has shown a very significant improvement. During the first quarter of the year the performance of sterilisation was about 50% higher than that in the corresponding period of the last year. The performance of IUD Programme was higher by more than 70%. We hope that this momentum will be maintained and the current year's target will be fully realised.

While Government is trying to do its

best, it has to be realised that governmental efforts in this most sensitive area of human behaviour can, at best, yield limited results. Family Planning has to become the people's movement. The Hon. Members of Parliament have a very crucial role to play. I have written to all the Hon. Members seeking their help, cooperation and suggestions on how to make this programme a people's movement. I would like to take this opportunity to make my plea once more that the role of the elected representatives of people is of paramount importance in this most vital national endeavour.

[Translation]

*SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the growth of population around the world and especially in the developing countries as an alarming rate is posing a serious challenge. Poverty and population go together. Whether there is poverty, there is an unabated growth of population. As population increases, so increases the poverty. It is a vicious circle. Poverty coupled with ignorance contributes to an unhealthy growth of population. Most of the countries continue to remain poor in spite of their best efforts to progress only due to the population growth. Growing population is the main obstacle in the path of progress. By the turn of the century the gap will further widen between the developed and developing countries. The growth of population nullifies all the economic development. In India, there is a significant economic growth. Yet it has been nullified by the spurt in population. It is clear that however we may develop economically, it will have no effect unless the population growth is checked. It is expected that in 10 years of time the population of the country will go up to 90 crores from the present level of 68 crores. By 2150 A.D. India will be the most populous country on the earth with a population of about 1.7 billion. In the next 15 years the number of couples in the reproduction category would swell to 170 millions from the present 123 millions. Under these circumstances it is unfortunate that the Government continues to pursue the same old policies which were not successful in the past. There is no change in the basic policy. There is no change in either organisational

*The Speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

set up of management of the family welfare programmes. It shows the bankruptcy of ideas of the Government. So I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would review the national policy once again? Whether there will be any basic shift in the policy with a basic change? Sir, this basic change is needed because of the fact that we could not achieve our targets earlier. Though the number of eligible couples protected risen to 32%, it is still short of 4 percentage points. Since our goal is around 60% by the turn of the century, the present policy would not take us anywhere near the target. That is why, Sir, I want to know whether there will be any basic shift in the policy to achieve better results.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you may put your questions. On the basis of the statement made by the Minister, whatever clarifications you want to seek, you may.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Sir, there is a wrong notion prevailing among our people that only Hindus are compelled to adopt the family welfare norm, while the people belonging to other religions are being ignored. Some people go to the extent of saying that India one day would become another Pakistan. The population of Hindus will dwindle and the population will go up, according to their version. The Government should try to dispel this wrong notion. I want to know whether the Government is trying to encourage all the people irrespective of their religion or community to go for family planning by offering better incentives? The policy that the Government adopts must be acceptable to all. Whether the Government is going to pursue such a policy? Sir, the eastern countries have devised now methods to control the population. These methods can be of much help to us if we adjust and adopt them to suit our conditions. I do not want the Government to blindly implement them. I want them implemented here with necessary changes and modification to suit us. I want to know whether the Government is considering this proposal.

Sir, at present the whole programme is being managed by bureaucrats. The specialists have no say either in drawing the programme or in implementing it. These bureaucrats do not have the much needed interdisciplinary competence for the success of the programme. So, whether, at least now, the Government

would appoint the specialists in this field to manage the programmes of family welfare? Whether the specialists are going to be entrusted with this job hereafter?

Sir, family welfare and female education compliment each other. Mother bears and rears the child. Ignorance of the woman contributed to the failure of this programme in the past. So what are the steps that the Government have taken so far in educating the woman and especially the illiterate woman?

There is a lot of disparity in the incentives now being offered by the Government. While the Government servants get extra increments and enjoy its benefit life long, others who are not Government servants got a paltry amount which is not sufficient even to cover the medical expenses. Hence whether the Government would enhance the amount now being offered as an incentive to the people who are other than the Government servants on par with the Government servants? The benefits should go to all equally whether they are Government servants or not.

The programmes over AIR and Doordarshan should be such that which can motivate the people to go for the family planning. Whether the Government is going to reorient their broadcasts in this respect?

Sir it is unfortunate that the medical care after the sterilisation is very poor. We do not have sufficient medical facilities to look after the persons who have undergone operation. Couple of months after the operation, certain complications develop which need the immediate attention of the doctor. So a regular medical check up is very necessary. When I was the Munsiff of our village, I was entrusted with the job of bringing 400 persons for the sterilisation, which I did. Sir, after the operation there was nobody to look after these people and treat them for the complication they had developed due to sterilisation. There was no doctor available. Finally, I had to seek the help of local Lion's Club and get them treated. So what I say is that even after the operation, the Government should see to it that the persons who have undergone operation will be under constant medical supervision for at least 6 months. Whether

[Shri Srihari Rao]

the Government proposes to take steps in this direction ?

Sir, our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants to take the nation to 21st century. I appreciate it computers are being used in all fields. But, Sir, this electronic revolution should not be restricted to the industrial sector alone. This technology can as well be applied for monitoring the family welfare programmes. I want to know whether Government has any intention of computerising family welfare programmes in the near future ?

Sir, restricting the population growth is very much necessary for our development. An all out effort is needed by the Government. I hope the hon. Minister would reply to all the questions I posed.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has not given any suggestion. He spoke on this issue just in a general way. He has asked what steps have been taken to contain the growth of population. He knows it well and it is a fact known to all that one of the greatest problem of the country is the growing population and it is of utmost importance to contain the growth of population. There are no two opinions about it. It is not the responsibility of the Health Ministry alone. In addition to our efforts, unless there is people's participation in it and every Indian considers it his responsibility, all our programmes would come to naught.

He has asked what the Government machinery is doing. You might remember what our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said. She had said, that it was people's programme and it was for the people. So, we want that besides our Government machinery, which is already engaged in this work, we need your help also. I had written letters to all of you, Block Pramukhs and M.L.As, etc., in this regard to take up this work in their constituencies. You may be aware that when this programme was undertaken, it had received a severe setback in 1975-76. In 1976-77 the number of acceptors of family planning was 12.5 million which came down to 4.7 million in 1977-78. Therefore, in 1980 we again paid attention to it. It is a matter of satisfaction that today we have the same political commitment which

we had earlier. Now I can say that our colleagues sitting on the other side are also grasping its importance. Now they have started thinking in this direction and we would like them to extend their help in this programme. I would like that they should go to their respective constituencies to propagate this programme. So far as the population growth is concerned, it is not that only babies are born, the infant mortality rate is also very high. You should also see the constraints before our society. Just now you have mentioned about other countries. The European countries are not facing this problem but yesterday mention was made about China in the House. We cannot follow that method in our country which China is adopting. In view of the fact that ours is a democratic country, all of us decided that it should be carried out on voluntary basis. In the National Health Policy which was approved by this House, it has been decided that this task will be carried out on voluntary basis, though education and motivation, so that it may become part of life. I can prove with the help of statistics that work in this direction is in progress. The work may not be going on with the desired speed but you see the constraints before us in this regard.

In our society the system of early marriage is still prevalent. It contributes to the growth of population and impairs the health of the women. It is necessary for us to propagate against the practice of early marriage. We have enacted a law that forbids marriage of a girl before she attains the age of 18 years. But even today if you go to the villages, you will find that children are married at the age of 10, 11, 12 or 15. This is a great hindrance in our efforts.

It is not necessary that we should stress only on sterilisation. As you have suggested, we can propagate for spacing method. So, we have asked the Medical Council of India that an extra course should be included in the medical course so that the students who pass out from the medical colleges and become doctors should know about all these things and take interest in them.

We all know that when the country got independence, there was very little gap between the birth rate and the death rate. But after independence, when we provided medical facilities, the death rate which was

47 and 48 per thousand came down to 11.9 in 1981. The reason for its coming down was that medical facilities were provided, people were educated and drinking water was provided. Our target is that this rate should further come down to 9 by 2001 A. D. We can contain diseases by providing medical facilities. Cholera, plague and other diseases have been eliminated but so far as the population growth is concerned, unless there is people's participation in it and unless it is taken up on war footing, we cannot bring it down so early.

You have said that sometimes misunderstandings crop up in the name of religion. I think any educated person who thinks that small family norm is good for us and for the nation, is not bound by any inhibition. Ours is a democratic country. So, every type of misunderstanding is floated here for political gains. We have seen its result in 1977-78. I am sure that the atmosphere which is building up in the country and the help which will be received from you will help us in achieving success in this regard. It is a big problem and our aim is to overcome it. To achieve our aim, it is necessary that we should rise above the political considerations and keep the national interest in mind and take it as a national issue so that this big problem is solved.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The hon. Minister has explained how certain steps are being taken by the Government to bring down the population growth a faster pace. In our country, during the period from 1901 to 1947, in all those 47 years, only 50% increase took place whereas from Independence till now it has more than doubled and it is mainly due to the steep decrease in the death rate due to extension of medical facilities to very large areas and also anti-poverty steps taken by the Government, increased irrigation facilities and increase in production of food crops, pulses and all these things. The present thinking is that our population will reach nearly 100 crores by the year 2000 and as the Minister has rightly said, this is an issue which is of a very-very important nature.

Unfortunately, because of this failure to arrest the increase in the population growth, what all efforts that are being made for planned

development and raising the standard of living are nullified. Our real per capita income has not made much progress and in all these 15 years, when we compare with the 1970-71 prices, the income which was Rs. 632 in 1970-71 is Rs. 712 now. So practically there is no increase. So the growth rate is 2.25% in our country while it reached almost the zero rate in several European countries; especially in West Germany, East Germany and in some other countries, it is a minus percentage.

Apart from the steps which the hon. Minister has mentioned in her answer, she has also made very clear several steps that have been taken by the Government. I will not narrate all those things. But I would like to make some more suggestions which I request the hon. Minister to carefully examine and try to implement. Of course, apart from the steps we take, we should also try to educate the people regarding the urgent need. Though the hon. Minister has said that during 1977-78 certain lack of commitment was there, it was not lack of commitment but it was the sad experience the people had during the emergency when due to the over-enthusiastic drive of the people in charge, it has had a negative impact on the people. Even people who have lost the fertility capacity were operated and people who were not married were also operated. I will not go into details.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is by way of abundant caution.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Suffice it to say that through voluntary methods and efforts, certainly this nation will rise upto the expectations. Of course, we will have to put in more efforts and right from the student days, the students should be given an idea that population control is absolutely necessary for the nation's interest as well as in their own interest because as future citizens of the country they have to be given all facilities and assistance for development from the Government, they should control the population. From the childhood days itself they should be mentally prepared. Family planning should be included in their curricula. Concentrated efforts should be made to educate people belonging to all religions. No religion says that you produce more children. Some people for some

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

reasons may be advocating people to produce more children. Government should undertake vigorous propaganda that to whatever faith they belong they should resort to family planning. In China apart from other steps they have taken they are taking very stringent measures to encourage the people belonging to minority communities to take to family planning. Similarly our Government should also take it up.

Women should be given equal rights. Government says that they are giving equal rights whereas in practice it is not being fully implemented. Unfortunately, in the Hindu faith there is one belief among people that son will be of much use to the parents at an old age. Government should see that belief gets diluted from the minds of the people and even if there is a girl certainly she will be of help to the family. That type of confidence we should inculcate in the minds of the parents.

Similarly, the Gram Panchayats should be permitted to purchase T.V. sets and out of this amount 50 per cent should be given as subsidy by the Government. As compared to radio and literature, T.V. will have more impact on the people especially in regard to family planning enlightenment. Government should take all necessary steps for encouraging T.V. and especially some programmes telling about the benefits which the people will get by adopting family planning. The increase that you have made from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 is very meagre. There should be substantial increase so that these people who have one or two children should come forward voluntarily to undergo operations. When you are giving so many incentives to Government employees, incentives to ordinary people should also be increased.

The hon. Minister has said about the scheme to issue green cards to individual acceptors of terminal methods after two children. It is a welcome idea. I request the Government to introduce a blue card to individual acceptors of terminal methods after one child. Even with two children our country is going to have enormous population. But there should be no coercion. If a family wants to take to family planning certainly Government should give more incentives to those people and especially in the matter of preferential treatment mentioned by the

minister. I also request that regarding extension of medical facilities to the weaker sections, housing schemes, integrated rural development programmes, integrated tribal development programmes, etc, in all these programmes priority should be given to those who have undergone family planning operation and who have responded to the Government call for undergoing family planning operations. Preference should also be given to these people who have responded to Government's call over others who have not undergone family planning operations. Apart from this, the birth rate of 20, death rate of 9 and infant mortality rate of 60 by the end of year 2000 A.D. cannot be attained unless more funds are allocated to medical, health and family welfare programmes. Sir, we are very very far behind when compared to other countries in the matter of development. They are all far ahead of us. So, I would request the Government to allocate more money for medical and family planning programmes so that these programmes are implemented successfully and attain the level of economic development and our standard of living and our per capita income should also reach to those levels of several other countries which have attained independence later than our country. I am not comparing our country with the USA or any other Western countries. I would once again request the hon. Minister to consider all these suggestions for implementation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : In regard to the suggestions given by the hon. Member, I would like to say that it is proposed to include population education in the syllabus of the schools and colleges. Secondly, the incentive money or the compensation money has been increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120. The Green Card system has been introduced so that they may get preference in the matter of housing or in purchasing land or in other things. Similarly, many States have introduced Lottery System also.

As regards the progress of work pertaining to the family planning, to a great extent it depends on the interest taken by the State Governments in it. We simply give them guidelines but the results are achieved in

proportion to the interest taken by the State Governments. In the country, there are a number of States which are doing good work and there are some States where the work is not being done satisfactorily. There are different schemes for them. It is our endeavour to goad those States which are not doing good work and to encourage those which are doing good work in this field. It is an admitted fact, as you have said, that female education is lagging far behind in our country. The States like Kerala, which have a high percentage of female education, are ahead in the family planning work also. There the infant mortality rate is far less than the national mortality rate. They are doing good work in the field of family planning. So, it is essential that more attention is paid to female education in the States and health education and population education are included in the curricular. You can see that in our national health policy, we have given importance to 'Mother and Child Health Care' along with the family planning work, because no couple can be persuaded till they are convinced that arrangements to look after their living children exist. The infant mortality rate is very high in our country. However, we are trying to bring it down gradually. In 1921, the figure which was 110 per 1,000 has declined sharply now. Many hon. Members have said that our figures are not correct but, I think, if you see the figures of the last ten years you will find that all the studies, which were conducted, have revealed that the people in the rural as well as urban areas are aware of the importance of the family planning.

13.00 hrs.

Our efforts are to strengthen the infrastructure through which we can provide more and more facilities. We propose to increase the number of health centres, primary health centres and community health centres so that we may be able to provide more and more facilities to the people. Health Guides have been posted in each village. We have posted fully trained traditional Birth Attendants in each village to ensure smooth and safe delivery.

We are trying to strengthen our infrastructure so that we could educate more and more people and provide more and more facilities to them. Efforts are being made to

implement Family Planning Programme with the consent of the people. You have suggested that institutions like Panchayat, Corporatives and district councils should also be involved in this work. We are trying to involve everybody. For this purpose, we have written to the Chief Ministers and other Ministers also. A meeting of the voluntary organisations has also been called. They have also been involved to the maximum extent. I organise meetings of the voluntary organisations of the State which I visit. I would like to request the hon. Members of Parliament to motivate the people in their respective constituencies. People will listen to you. In this way there will be greater involvement of non-official agencies. It is our endeavour to seek your cooperation and if we get your cooperation, I feel there will be some progress.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is very strange that on this issue, four Members of the Telugu Desam Party got the opportunity to speak. Out of the four, already two people have spoken—one in English and one in Telugu. Since we people know three language formula, I propose to speak in Hindi... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai has enlightened us to a considerable extent. We have gathered a lot of information from her reply to the various speeches. Still, two or three questions have remained unanswered. I shall not take much time. I would only like to know the views of the hon. Minister. All the family welfare schemes referred to by her are voluntary schemes. Money is required to implement these schemes and as such funds may be provided therefor. As you know, in China, force was used to accomplish this task. Socio-economic conditions are

[Shri C. Madhav Reddi]

different there. Money was not needed there to such a great extent. Still, I would like to point out that during the last 10 years, China has spent ten times more money than us. Despite the fact that money is not needed, their family planning budget is more than their agriculture budget. I have come to know that an amount of Rs. 1400 crores had been spent during the last Five Year Plan. I think the correct figure is Rs. 1438 crores. During the Seventh Plan, an amount of Rs. 4800 crores has been proposed to be spent. I have come to know that this amount has been reduced to Rs. 3256 crores. It is a matter of great regret. Why was the Family Welfare Programme signed out for making the cut? Funds can be mobilised from anywhere. Unless funds are made available, this programme will not prove to be a success, because all the schemes introduced during the last 30 years have been successful in motivating only the urban middle class. You have stated that couple protection rate has gone up, which is true about the urban middle class only. Which scheme has proved to be a success in the villages where major part of the people live? Terminal method or sterilization programme has proved a success there. The propagation work done or the literature etc. distributed by you does not have any effect on the rural population. You will have to pay more attention towards the terminal method. During the Seventh Five Year Plan you have fixed a target of three crore people to be covered under the terminal method but it is doubtful whether you will be able to cover this number. You have fixed this target of three crore people keeping in view the availability of funds to the tune of Rs. 4000 crores from the Planning Commission. You may be able to achieve this target if the amount of Rs. 4000 crores was sanctioned. You will not be able to achieve this target because an amount of about Rs. 3000 crore only has been sanctioned. I fear you will not be able to push up the schemes which are suitable for the rural areas. Please explain it in your reply.

You have stated that at present couple protection rate is 32 per cent and during the Seventh Five Year Plan you propose to raise it to 42 per cent.

[English]

By the end of the century, you want to achieve a target...

[Translation]

I again started speaking in English—Will you be able to achieve a target of 60 per cent by the end of the century? Will you be able to give protection to those people? Protection does not mean this much only. It is, of course, a very good word. I also like it very much because you are not only providing protection to the couple from unemployment, but you are protecting them from fertility also. It is also a very good word because fertility has become a disease these days. You are using a very good word to avoid it. It appears that the Family Planning Department is adept in coining words. I feel that the figure of 32 per cent is somewhat exaggerated. I am not prepared to accept it. If you are able to provide protection to 32 per cent couples, it will be a great achievement. But has it been achieved in actual practice?

Our friends have stated here just now that our growth rate has gone down to less than two. I am not prepared to accept it. Some of the friends have stated that it is 2.5 which is utterly wrong. You want to bring the growth rate to two by the turn of the century. If you are able to do so, it will be a great success. I apprehend that you will not be able to achieve this target because your planning is defective. You earmark for every item, huge amounts are spent on big river valley projects, but you are not spending so much money on the Family Planning Programme. Family Planning Programme is not a new programme. It has been there since 1950. In 1950 you had fixed the norm of 3 children per family. At that time the slogan was that there should not be more than 3 children in a family. But with the passage of time this target has been changed and you fixed the norm of two children per family and not more. But now it has also become irrelevant. In many countries like China, a norm of one child per family has been fixed. Hence our Family Planning Department should propargate the norm of one child per family. But it does not mean that a family should have only one child. However, our norm should be one

child on an average per family. But who will agree to it? Unless you go to the rural areas and persuade the common people, the harijans, the adivasis, the backward community people and the poor, it is not possible because children are an asset for them. We all know it very well. You talk here about male or female child. I do not agree with you. In the rural areas a boy or a girl starts earning at the age of 3 years. Earning livelihood is the major question there. Children are a source of income for them. So long as this mentality is there, this attitude will continue. I do not say that this should not be there. It should be there because their socio-economic conditions compel them to think like this. Unless you give them certain incentives and inducements and unless you spend more money on this programme *i.e.* unless you give them an incentive of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000 in each sterilization case, you will not be able to make this programme a success. In 1956-57 we gave Rs. 100 to the people. Some States gave Rs. 150 whereas others gave Rs. 200. It is a must because their motive to produce more children is economic. We should understand this and we should provide them with some incentive. We waived the land revenue in Andhra Pradesh. I say it with regret that land revenue has been written off in all cases without any reason. We should have laid down a condition that land revenue would be waived in all such cases where people have undergone sterilisation operations. But we missed this opportunity. Now there is trend in all the States to waive land revenue on some pretext. Therefore, if an announcement is made to the effect that whosoever undergoes sterilization operation, his entire land revenue will be waived, people will come forward in such a large number that it will not be possible to accommodate all of them because of inadequate capacity. I, therefore, request you that the present allocation of funds should continue and no cut should be effected in it.

Just now an hon. Member said that our population would increase to 1000 million by the turn of this century. In other words, the population of our country will be 100 crores by 2000 A.D. and then we will have no food to eat and no house to live in. Then the country will have to face ruination as is happening in Ethiopia at present. In Ethiopia, the people are still dying of starvation and famine is stalking that country

because they could not take steps to control the growth of their population in time. Now the nature is playing her role in reducing the population. We should make tremendous efforts in this direction to see that such a situation does not develop in India. However, we have done a lot in this field. We should persuade the people. You are doing considerable work in this direction. You are writing letters to us and the Chief Ministers. As we are aware of the problem, there is no need of writing letters to us. You should write letters to them. If they do not understand then I shall say :

*Agar na samjhoge to mit jaoge ae
Hindustan walo,*

*Teri dastan bhi na hogi, dastan—
bayane*

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member that he has appreciated some of the steps taken by us and has also given us some suggestions. Firstly, I would like to tell him that this contention is not correct that the impact of our effort has been limited to the urban population only. I would like to give the statistics of 1983-84 in this connection. Under the programme which we undertook in 1983-84, about 70 per cent of the people living in the villages were motivated and 72 per cent were covered by the devices like the I.U.D. The position is not what you are thinking. Now the people in the villages are aware of the benefits of a small family. As regards funds, we are allocating funds for it as much as we can, keeping in view our economic condition. We tried our best to increase the allocation but we could not increase it in the Plan. Thirdly, the hon. Members said that we wrote them letters. We write letters to you because you are the elected representatives of the people. The advantage of writing you letters is that we can get the desired work done through you in your respective constituencies. So, we want your involvement. It is a matter of pleasure that we have reached a stage where the political issue and mutual differences are insignificant in the face of this problem and we are putting our heads together to solve this problem. But so far as education is concerned, our social problems, economic conditions, economic backwardness are proving hurdles in the implementation of the programme. Female education is one of the

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]

main problem because its percentage is still not high in our country. Even where there is female education, the programme does not have the desired effect due to lack of awareness. So, the need of the hour is to propagate the Family Planning Programme in all earnestness because the norms of our society are such that we do not take the programme seriously, rather we treat it lightly. This is our main hurdle.

An hon. was saying that if we looked at the per capita income, we would find that there had been progress in every field, like agriculture etc. I do not want to count them. But when the question of propagation comes, we are lost. So, there is need to increase the infrastructure in the villages.

In the pre-independence days, there used to be one hospital in each district, but now because the facilities are available, we want that the services of the dispensaries should percolate to the lower level also and we are doing it also. I have no doubt that we shall be able to do it. If there is commitment and the political will then the task will definitely be accomplished. Today we need the cooperation of all to carry out this task.

At present there is one centre for a population of 5,000. It is true that all the facilities are not available there but I cannot agree to it that nothing is available in our infrastructure, in the hospitals and in the primary health centres. Now we are paying attention towards the villages so that the people may get facilities and the mother child health programme may proceed in a better way.

We have many other schemes like universal immunisation programme. Under this programme we have selected 30 districts at present in the whole country. We are hopeful that by 1990 we shall be able to complete this task, i.e., that mothers shall get their children upto the age of 2 years immunised to save them from disease. It will bring down the infant mortality rate. Both those things have to go side by side.

The I.C.D.S. programme is going on. We have taken up the Integrated Child Development Programme. We want to extend these programmes gradually, so that they reach the lower strata.

You have mentioned about "one child norm". We do not discourage it, but our present policy is that of "Two Child norm". So far we are not in a position to think that one child would be sufficient. Of course, China has done good work in this field but as I said earlier, ours is a democratic country and we cannot take steps which other countries have taken. We still say that we do not discourage the people who adopt the one child norm. We provide the sterilization facility to those people also who have one child and those who willingly want to have one child only. There are a number of families who do not want a second child but we cannot adopt this as a policy.

As regards the villages, we are putting in the same efforts there also and the people in the villages willingly want it also, but there is need to educate them. Now they realise that the concept that more children means more earning is wrong; on the contrary, it creates more troubles. This change is coming gradually but it should be speeded up. We are taking steps in this direction. We are sure that we shall complete the task.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall not take much time. Among the developing countries, India is one such big country whose material, economic, social and cultural disparities are increasing rapidly. But, since independence, the population has increased at the same pace at which the disparities have increased. The moot point is what would be the fate of the country if the population goes on increasing like this. Increase in the population is harmful for any country.

Sir, before independence, the population of the country was 38 crores and now it has touched the figures of 68 crores and 51 lakhs. This increase has unfortunately been tremendous. It is true that we have been successful in containing the mortality rate but we have failed to contain the birth rate. The birth rate is still increasing at the rate of 2.25 per thousand per year and at this rate our population would be 95 crores and 17 lakhs by the end of the 20th century.

As hon. Member has stated that Rs. 1400 crores have been spent but I would say that keeping in view the pace at which the

population has increased, this amount is very little. You have opened health centres at the Panchayat level for every five thousand population in the villages but despite opening of the centres to propagate the programme and the health centres, you have not been able to check the growth in population. You will have to make arrangements for their accommodation and education. Those poor people have no house to live in. All the family members live in the same hut. They have neither radio nor television for entertainment. You will have to provide them with means through which they could get entertainment and also know about the family planning programmes. These poor people know only this much that when their son is five years old, he will do some odd job like cattle grazing and earn his livelihood. You will have to pay attention to this aspect particularly.

Regarding education, I would like to say that if you see dispassionately you will find that the grant given in the villages for the education of the poor and the harijan student is used by their parents for other purposes because it is not given in time. The grant for 1984-85 earmarked for the poor harijans has not been paid to them as yet. As a result, their education will be discontinued. Thereafter, they will do odd jobs like grazing the cattle or cultivating the fields. You will have to pay attention to all these things.

An hon. Member has just said that the money spent on this programme is very less. But if land revenue is waived in the cases where people adopt the family planning norm, people will surely adopt it. Otherwise the condition of the Family Planning Programme is such that only those people have adopted it who have been helped by nature. It was mentioned that some years ago, incentive of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 used to be paid but we found that those very persons used to come again who had got it earlier. In this way the agents are becoming prosperous through such corrupt means. Unless we put an end to this corruption, the programme cannot be successful. Already there are hurdles in implementing this programme and whatever money you allocate for it is misappropriated and is not spent for this purpose.

I would like to draw your attention to the sub-centres set up by the Government.

You say that it is responsibility of the State Governments and we only lay down guidelines; then why is this matter being raised here? What is the condition of the sub-centres? The employees posted there to do the work do not stay there. The doctors who are posted to these sub-centres do not join their duties for as long as six months. So, you will have to make improvements in it also. If this problem could be the cause of the ruin of the country, and you carry on the work like this, how can you succeed in your efforts? Recently, we visited Moscow. There we saw an exhibition depicting their 26th progress. In the exhibition there was a message from the Government to the women in which an appeal was made to them to procreate four children otherwise legal action would be taken against them. Firstly, you try to remove hurdles in the way of implementing the programmes. Only by replacing the capitalist system by the socialist system you can control the growth of population.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : The hon. Member has given a number of suggestions. All these had been covered in the reply already given by me. I would like to request the hon. Member to give me suggestions in writing if he has any more in mind. We shall look into them.

[English]

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I do distinctly remember an occasion, recently in the current session, when the Congress Benches Members had demanded conversion of a Calling Attention mention into a discussion under Rule 193 so that they may also have an opportunity to participate in the discussion. But this is the subject only where they are not evincing any interest to participate. I think this itself explains the interest which the ruling party has shown towards this subject. Let the hon. Minister take notice of this in the first instance. This is the Opposition which is extending every cooperation. Every speech made by every Member of the Opposition has uniformly extended full and unstinted cooperation for the entire programme which the Government has taken up.

When the Government is sincere and earnest and very keen about achieving certain targets and certain goals, can they also simultaneously

[Shri S. M. Bhattam]

think in terms of bringing out a legislation to this effect, and can they think in terms of imposing a reasonable limit on the size of the family? They may also consult other political parties if necessary. Let there be a national consensus on this matter. A new policy has got to be evolved and formulated. So, why not think in those terms? Unless the Government thinks on drastic lines and brings out certain radical charges, it is very difficult to say that they would achieve the desired goal. It is, of course, true that the people have now-a-days become conscious and one gradually taking to family planning measures.

I would like to make one of two observations. There is a marked difference in the rate of growth of population in the developed and developing countries. In the developing countries population grows by leaps and bounds, whereas it is slow and tardy and very low in developed countries. The population of developed countries is estimated to grow from 1.2 billion to 1.4 billion by 2000 A. D.

Let us now see the position in the under-developed countries. Population in the developing countries during the same period is expected to grow up from 2.6 billion to 8.4 billion. This shows poverty and faster rate of growth of population go together. Poverty is a curse. Poorer sections are blessed with greater number of members in the family, whereas the affluent sections are conferred with the benefit of lesser number of members in the family. Fertility declines with the growth in the general level of socio-economic development. Poverty leads to population increase and population explosion also leads to poverty. This is a vicious circle and you have to break this link. Therefore, there should be a two-pronged attack. You will have to raise the living standards of the people in general and also motivate the people. These two programmes should simultaneously go ahead.

Planning and family planning are basically integral part of one and same policy. They are linked together. There is a link between the progress and success of planning and the success and progress of family planning. Similarly, family planning programme is linked up with the success of planning and development. Development is not possible at all unless

slow rate of population is achieved. In fact, family planning is an integral part of the economic planning, as was made out by the Minister earlier at the time of giving her first statement.

1981-82 was a time when the Sixth Plan was being given final touch by the Planning Commission. At that time the Director General of Census revealed that they had now to take into account 23 millions of population. The population growth rate was not 33 per thousand but 36 per thousand. That revolution had come at that time. Therefore, the Planning Commission had to do a lot of re-thinking and restructuring of the entire Sixth Plan. Therefore, the increase in population is a matter of national concern. If you do not look into that you cannot achieve progress.

Between 1901 and 1951—during the period of fifty years—the population increased by 52 per cent—from 24 crores to 36 crores. Between 1951 and 1981—the period of 30 years—the population increased by 90 per cent *i.e.*, from 36 crores to 68.5 crores. Can India's land support such a large growing population? With the ever increasing number of families, land is being fragmented and landless agricultural people are increasing in number year after year and as a result poverty accumulates and numbers multiply.

Now, let us see what is its impact on the urban areas. London was the second largest city in the year 1950.

But it would not rank even among the first 25 largest cities by the turn of the century, because rapid population growth in developing countries creates such situations. It also creates serious economic problem. I agree that there should be a national approach to this problem. There should not be only partisan attitude in matters of this nature. We are one with the hon. Minister when he said that we must rise above the party considerations and put our shoulders together and solve this major national problem without which the country's progress will not be achieved in the direction in which it is necessary. The hon. Prime Minister made an announcement recently and it has appeared in the Press. He said that Government will be giving a package of incentives in respect of family planning and that they will render certain help to those

who adopt these family planning measures. But the Health Minister has not made any mention about this. It also appeared in the Press that an amount of Rs. 50 per month per family will be paid in the entire country for a period of 5 years for all such families who take to this method. Along with poverty-alleviation programme you should have this programme also and this programme should be linked with your poverty-alleviation programme. You will have to offer the necessary incentives to the people and you should also take up the responsibility to increase the standard of living of the people and ensuring that this programme is voluntarily resorted to by people in the rule areas also. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised two points which have been answered by me in the course of the reply given to the points raised by other hon. Members earlier. So far as the question of introducing same legislation is concerned, there is no such proposal under consideration at the moment because as I have repeatedly said we want this to be done on voluntary basis, purely on voluntary basis keeping in view the conditions in our country. The issue of giving Rs. 50.00 per month as incentive is under consideration, it has not yet been decided, but it is necessary; we want this to be done, whether by giving incentive or by educating the people. Giving incentive is a different matter. In my opinion small family is in itself an incentive. People should be made aware that a small family is as much in their own interest as is in the interest of the Government. This Government is theirs this country is theirs and it is the need of the hour to have small family. People are now realising it. It is not only in the Government's interest, it is in their own interest also. I am grateful to you all that you raised this matter and invited our attention. I feel that all of us should and will have to ponder over this issue with all seriousness and all of you will have to extend help. It is true that the Health Ministry is responsible for it, but all of us should work in the country's interest... (*Interruptions*) Particularly the youth.... (*Interruptions*) The youth should shoulder the responsibility of vigorously propagating the movement and in this International year

of the youth. I think we should carry the message of small family and of family planning.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : The youth are very active in this matter, it is the elders who are to be planned. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Elders have committed that mistake. It is now over... (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member expressed his doubts about achievement of 32 per cent couple-protection rate. But I think the population would have increased much more if these figures were wrong. The percentage figure would have been more if we had shown 45 per cent or so instead of 32-33 per cent. There may be a variation of two to four per cent in the figures, but they show our gradual progress and prove that there is awareness among the people now.

I have covered almost all the points. I once again express my thanks to the hon. Members for inviting our attention to this issue.

14.45 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 12th August, 1985, will consist of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Tobacco Board (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (b) The Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Amendment Bill, 1985.

[Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad]

- (c) The Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (d) The Pondicherry University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (e) The Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (3) Discussion under Rule 193 regarding reported atrocities on the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various parts of the country at 3.00 PM on Tuesday, the 13th August, 1985.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. Submissions now.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : May we know whether there is any likelihood of the extension of the Session ? We have made so little progress so far with all your cooperation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. I am requesting them for submissions. Now, Mr. V.S. Rao may make his submission.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's Agenda :

(1) Amaravati Express which is operated between Guntur and Hubli (via) Guntakal and Hospet is a very important train for the people of Guntur, Kurnool, Anantapur Districts in Andhra Pradesh. The occupancy is 130 per cent.

Though it is called Amaravathi Express, in practice it is running as Fast Passenger. Because of the steam engine and too many stops for a distance of 675 kms, it is taking 24 hours to go from Guntur to Hubli which is quite boring.

Previously there was a direct train from Guntur to Bangalore which was discontinued. Later there used to be a few bogies attached to this Amaravathi Express which were connected to Bangalore bound trains at Guntakal. Now, this facility has also been

withdrawn causing serious inconvenience to the travelling public who desire to go to Bangalore especially from trade point of view as well as tourists.

So, I request the Government to look into the matter and take the following steps immediately :

- (i) for running the 225 Amaravathi Express from Guntur to Hubli with a diesel engine.
- (ii) attach a few bogies from Guntur to this train to be detached at Guntakal and attached to Bangalore bound trains.

(2) The wagon repair workshop at Rayanapadu in South Central Railway has an installed capacity for repair of hundred wagons per day. But at present about 35 wagons per day only are repaired. There is great shortage of wagons to meet the demand. The allocation in the current year's budget for procurement of wagons is far less. So, to utilise the machinery and equipment to the fullest extent and make available more repaired wagons to the Railways, I request the Government to take immediate steps for undertaking repairing of hundred wagons per day, with some additional staff.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam): The following item may be included in the next week's Agenda :

The Itchampalli project located at the confluence of Indravati with Godavari River in Karimnagar District of Andhra Pradesh will have to be surveyed, planned and executed and subsequently operated and maintained by an Inter-State Control Board duly constituted with the representatives of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh as per the award of Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal.

The main issues requiring urgent attention are :

- (i) Holding of a meeting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the formation of the Control Board for the Project.
- (ii) Completing the sub-mergence area survey by all three States.

This project would generate 182 MW and 160 MW of power during the initial and second stages. It is a project of great significance for Andhra Pradesh. This is also a means for regulating floods. 85 TMC of water from the reservoir will be available for irrigation in Andhra Pradesh. In view of the importance of the Project it is urged that the Union Minister may convene a meeting of the three Chief Ministers of the above States at an early date so that it may be later cleared.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include the following items in the business of the House for the next week :

- (1) The law and order situation in Delhi has been deteriorating constantly during the last few months culminating in the assassination of a Member of this august House. This should therefore be discussed in the House.
- (2) A large number of students of Delhi have not been able to secure admission in Delhi University and in the institutions affiliated to it. They are knocking at the doors of the colleges in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. There is, therefore, deep resentment among the parents. Hence this matter needs to be discussed in the House.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the following matter to be included in the business of the House for the next week :

It is learnt that the office of the Aligarh Muslim University recommended the names of Bihar students after deducting 7 per cent marks last year of 12 per cent marks this year out of the total marks secured by them and, as a result, several brilliant students have been deprived of being nominated. The reasons for this are stated to be copying in examinations in the educational institutions in Bihar. This clearly not only amounts to aspersion on the Bihar students but an insult to the Bihar Government also.

I would, therefore, urge the hon.

Education Minister to probe the matter and take prompt effective action to ensure Bihar students admission in Aligarh Muslim University by adopting a liberal policy.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I beg to give notice to include the following items in the Government business for the next week :

That the proposed second steel plant in Orissa which was once already inaugurated at Paradeep Port site was then shifted to Daitary site and the capacity was decided to be of 1.5 million tonnes. Now, its capacity is being reduced to 2 lakh tonnes only and even then, it is being subjected to the availability of resources. This needs to be discussed in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Sir, I suggest the following matters to be included in the Government business for the week commencing from 12th August, 1985 :

Royalty on minerals constitutes an importance source of revenue for the Government of Orissa. According to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, the rates of royalty in respect of any mineral may not be increased more than once during a period of four years. It is seen that the royalty rates are not reviewed at the expiry of four years term, in spite of repeated requests made by the Government of Orissa and the assurance given by the Union Minister for Steel and Mines.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the prices of coal, steel and cement have been raised during the period of last four years. On the other hand, the royalty rates in respect of the minerals and ores utilised for production of iron, steel and cement have been kept intact for more than four years. Revision in the rates of royalty of iron ore has been due since 1982. Revision in the rates of royalty for manganese ore has become due since 1983. In respect of other minerals, royalty rates have been due for revision in 1985. It is seen that not even once the Government of India has revised the royalty rates in time. It is in this context I strongly demand that the royalty rates should be revised and the rates should be affected on the due date.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

This matter may be discussed in the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I want the following matter to be included in the next week's agenda :

On April 27, 1985, the Central Government issued an order of moratorium to Lakshmi Commercial Bank under the Banking Regulation Act on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India. The said order was issued to bring about the amalgamation of Lakshmi Commercial Bank with the Punjab National Bank. The announcement was widely carried by TV, AIR, Press and other media. Subsequently, detailed discussions were held by the Reserve Bank of India with representatives of the Punjab National Bank to finalise the process of amalgamation. The Reserve Bank of India also nominated the Deputy General Manager of the Punjab National Bank on the Board of Directors of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank. It has now been suddenly decided to amalgamate the Bank with the Canara Bank. This has caused great disappointment and resentment among the employees and the customers of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank and has also adversely affected the goodwill of the Punjab National Bank. This sudden decision is also unsound and a departure from normal rules. The Lakshmi Commercial Bank in the north is culturally suited and business-wise matched with the Punjab National Bank. A number of ex-employees of the Punjab National Bank have traditionally worked with the Lakshmi Commercial Bank. There is need for the Government to review its decision in the interest of the banking industry and to revert to its previous declared intent in favour of the Punjab National Bank. The matter, therefore, needs to be discussed in the next week.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : Sir, I suggest inclusion of the following item in the next week's business. The Indian Medical Council was constituted on 15-2-1984. Its main function is to maintain standards of medical education in all Medical Colleges in the country. This august body was nurtured by great stalwarts like Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. Jegraj Mehta and Dr. A Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliyar. Now the IMC have 106 Medical Colleges, and the IMC has to correspond

with more than 100 Universities imparting under-graduate and post-graduate education. Of late, there has been a tendency for outsiders or outside bodies to dictate what the IMC should do regarding admission to under-graduate and post-graduate courses. The IMC has been asked to conduct entrance examination for under-graduate and post-graduate courses. This is a Herculean task and the IMC is not a competent body to conduct the examination. Each State has been requested to take 60 per cent students successful in the examination to the respective Colleges and the other 30 per cent will be filled by the IMC from other States. This will result in disastrous effect rather than helping in national integration. The student must be familiar with the local language if he is to examine and talk to the patient. Another problem that States will face is the shortage of doctors and most of the students who come from other States will go to their home States. Then the Primary Health Centres of each State will suffer without doctors. So, in these matters, before a decision is taken, the respective States should be consulted.

None of the Medical Colleges is financed by the Central Government or Health Ministry or the UGC. Medical education and medical relief is a State subject. They cannot compare with the IITs in the country. John Hopkins University has come out openly that entrance examination is not a sure method of finding out the students' general knowledge, aptitude, etc. The Board of Directors of J. H. University felt that the student's performance at the school, college, university level as well as his performance at the entrance examination, interview and reports from his teachers should be considered.

I submit that a University of Health Science with a new Board of studies can bring about a total revolution in medical education.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I suggest that the following matters be included in the Government Business for the week commencing from 12th August, 1985.

It is a matter of regret that Orissa with immense tourist importance does not find its proper place in the air-map of India. Its

Capital, Bhubaneswar, has been linked with Delhi by an Indian Airlines direct flight since 1980 only, and that too not every day. The flight was hitherto going five days in a week; instead of making it operate daily, its operation has now all of a sudden been reduce to four days since 23rd July last. Besides, its timings have been changed. The flight which was earlier leaving Delhi for Bhubaneswar via Banaras at 7.05 A.M. is now going at 12.30 P.M. on completion of its morning service only. Delay in its return to Delhi naturally delays the subsequent Bhubaneswar flight, and from part experience it is seen that such delay becomes somewhat a regular phenomonon. Therefore, the change in its timings is causing a lot of inconvenience to the passengers of Orissa for whom this is the only flight available to come to the Capital City of the country.

Further, the Vayudoot Service which is presently connecting only Rourkela with Bhubaneswar can easily touch Jharsuguda, the gateway to western Orissa, for the convenience of the people of a larger area.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Delhi-Bhubaneswar direct flight be made a daiy one with suitable timings and Jharsuguda be placed on the air map by extending the Vayudoot Service to that place.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Sir, Please include the following item in the Agenda of Business of Lok Sabha for the next week :

(i) Reported extention of the life of ESMA after expiry of its life. The left hand democratic forces had always opposed this legislation which has been misused to break strikes and other worhing class struggles. Since Punjab and Assam problems are nearing solutions, a sense of relies if dawning in the democratic people. The extension of ESMA at this juncture will harm the cause of democratic process in the country. Rather ESMA should be scrapped and the country should never think of such laws of ESMA, NASA etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

Sir, the points mentioned by the Members would be put before the Business Advisory Committee.

15.02 hrs.

TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.”

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.03 hrs.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri T. Anjiah on the 7th August, 1985, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Employment of Children Act, 1938, be taken into consideration”.

Shri A. Charles.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, I support the amendment to the Employment of Children Act, 1938 now before the House. Sir, it serves only a limited purpose of enhancing the punishment laid down in the Act for the persons who violate the provisions of Section 3. The

[Shri A. Charles]

Act as it now stands given provision for a punishment of one month or with. The proposed amendment envisages a slight enhancement in the punishment. Especially for the second offence there is a compulsory provision for conviction, that is, imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months, but which may extend upto two years. To that extent the amendment is welcome and I support the amendment.

But what is the real problem now before us ? Sir, Article 24 of the Constitution of India states that no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. Sir, there are also a number of major legislation laying down penal provisions for any violation of the restriction imposed for engaging children in any hazardous employment. In spite of the legislations and enactments, what is the real picture ? There is an alarming increase among the number of children engaged such employments in gross violation of all restrictions and rules in the matter. In 1977 the number of children employed in the different categories of work is estimated to be to the tune of 10 million. The present estimates put the number at 17 million. It is a matter of very great concern that among the children employed in the hazardous work in the whole world, one-third is accounted for by India. As matters stand, by the end of the century, the figure may certainly cross the 45 million mark. Any civilised country will have view it with serious concern.

Sir, it is neither the lack of legislation nor information regarding the number of children employed or the places or industries where these children are engaged, that stands in the way of taking stringent action against those who commit this very heinous crime of engaging children below the age of 14. I may say that it is only lack of political will or it is the lack of rules to enforce these penal clauses that stands in the way of bringing down this crime.

The details collected show that about a lakh of children are employed in the carpet industries of Kashmir. The Banaras silk industry engages about 50,000 children. Several thousands of children are engaged in the local mines of Meghalaya and in the

match industry is Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu. Then several thousands of children are engaged in the tea and coffee plantations of Kerala and certain other places. Just think of the children who have crossed the age of 5, the little, innocent ones which need all the care and affection and support of the family, are sent to work in very unhygienic circumstances, not knowing what life they have before them. It is painful to note that the report says that within 2 or 3 or 4 years they contract very serious diseases and their whole life ends in 20 years. This is a very shocking thing in a developing country like ours.

Where are the laws ? Where are the legislations ? Where is the constitutional protection given to the children of this country ? I want to know. Has any serious effort ever been made by anybody to know whether any of the enactments on the subject have ever been enforced ? In 1979 the Government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy to go into the subject. It is really interesting to know that in answer to a question—question No. 1393 answered in this House on 12th March, it was said that all the recommendations of the committee except the one relating to the admission of minimum age for entry into employment of children have been accepted by the Government and sent to the State Governments and Central Ministries for implementation. In subsequent questions of the same year—it is very, very fantastic to note—the same answer with the same sentences, without a change even in the punctuation, has been given. One of them is question No. 6253. So this is a stereotyped way of answering and I am sorry to say that when the Government of India makes a rule and when a question is answered here and a high-power committee is appointed and their recommendations are sent to the States and the Ministries and the whole responsibility of the Government of India ends there ? What is going to happen to these children ? What is going to happen to those recommendations ? Nobody is bothered. I wonder when such a legislation is passed whether there will be a machinery to see that this enhanced penalty is imposed. There is an attempt made by the Government of India to engage voluntary agencies. I do not think that it will also serve any purpose. I suggest that definite rules should be framed and

responsible bodies such as Panchayats or Municipalities or Corporations be authorised to verify the industry within their respective jurisdiction and see whether any industry is engaging children below the age of 14. They can also get the statement from these industries at least once in three months. If any violation of these rules come to their notice they should be authorised to file petitions in the court. They should be given the responsibility to see that the provisions of the rule are enforced.

In answer to Question No. 138 answered in January I am sorry to find that the answer given is against the very Constitutional provisions. In that answer the Minister says :

"While it is not possible to eliminate child labour completely in the context of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, it has been Government's endeavour to ensure that children compelled to work by circumstances should not be exploited and should be able to work in better conditions of health and hygiene."

Sir, this answer is counter to Article of the Constitution where it is specifically laid down that no child below the age of 14 can be employed in hazardous occupation. Here there is a statement that it is not possible to completely ban employment of children below the age of 14. I request that such statements should not be allowed to be placed before this august body.

Lastly, Sir, children who are at present working in these hazardous occupations should be rehabilitated so that they can really form the wealth of India and make this country prosper.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Minister but this is not a comprehensive legislation because this covers only those children who come in the category of labour. What is your proposal about those unfortunate children who are forced to take to begging and are subjected to inhuman treatment; their limbs are chopped off and

are rendered blind so that they may evoke pity and continue to get alms. The people who good these children to take to begging make it a source of income. Similarly, the children of Child House, whether run by the Government or the voluntary organisations, are not treated well. We still have children in large numbers who are born on footpaths, grow on footpaths and die on footpaths. They spend their whole life on footpaths. They are deprived of their natural joy of childhood. We cannot give them their childhood back. Children are the wealth of the nation. They are the future of the nation.

I support this Bill. However, I would request the hon. Minister to bring a legislation providing for child development. This is a social and economic problem. Laws are made. They should be made because man has to be disciplined. But if law could solve the social problems, then there would have been no dowry problem, no child marriage problem, no discrimination between man and woman. The other aspect is of its implementation. So, the need is of creating a sense of awareness among the masses.

The hon. Minister provides financial assistance to institutions only. Ours is a welfare state. I do not oppose the grant given by the Ministry for research projects, for action-oriented projects. You provided funds to the tune of Rs. 70,000 in 1981-82 and Rs. 3,48,938 in 1984-85 and have made a total provision of Rs. 5 crores in the Seventh Plan. But my submission is that instead of giving financial assistance, you should adopt some of the organisations engaged in such work. Some organisations are presently being run by women, but not in an effective manner. You should appoint an advisory committee which should study the working of these organisations and conduct a survey to find out the number of children living on footpaths, of those used for carrying out illegal jobs, in human deeds, smuggling activities etc. You should have their statistics with you.

As you know, in 1959 the child problem had become a world-wide problem and the charter of the United Nations made a mention of the fundamental rights of the children. Then, in 1975, a very big international conference was held in our country

[[Shrimati Krishna Sahi]

in which labour and child problems were discussed and the eminent experts opined that it should be included in the Plan and a national policy be laid down and it should be deliberated at the planning level.

A survey of the International Labour Organisation put the number of child labour at 4.30 crores in 1978, of which 90 per cent were reported to be in the developing countries. What I mean to say is that the number of children falling in this particular category in a country like ours is increasing. In 1979 this number had crossed the mark of 5.20 crores.

1979 was celebrated as the Year of the Child throughout the world. But the child labour problem remained as ever rather it has aggravated with the passage of time. It is assuming the dimension of a world-wide phenomenon. We have this problem in our country. This is all right. But the number of child labour and similar children is on the increase in western countries. Italy, France and Germany are faced with this problem. But there the children work voluntarily to earn their pocket money. They work in homes during their vacations to earn pocket money to enjoy excursions and see feature films. Here, in our country, this is not voluntary. Here, the children are forced to take to work due to economic constraints and compulsions.

You know when a female child is born here, she is considered to be a burden, but if a male baby is born, he is considered an asset; he is considered to be a helping hand, a supporter of the parents in their old age. This child is made to earn a living. This problem has become a practice, a practice which is a course in our society. It is a course for us. We shall have to stop this practice. Government as well as the people's representatives will have to implement it jointly. Besides, you should impose restriction on the employment of children. However, we shall have to see what type of facility we can provide to the children who are already in employment because it is resulting in their mental depravity and we are not able to give them protection.

According to the survey conducted in 1985, there are 2 crore child workers in the country who are in the age group of 5 to 14 years. In 1976, their number was about one

crore and 10 lakhs which has increased to 2 crores today. In this way, their number is increasing. As such, shall have to look into its basic cause. Merely by imposing restriction, we cannot solve the problem.

Ours is a welfare state. There is a provision of education in it. We shall have to make it more effective. The poor parents cannot shoulder the burden of their children's education. Therefore, besides meals, clothes should also be provided to the children in the schools so that they may get clothes and meals and thus pursue their education without any hindrance. If such an arrangement is not made then the children will not be able to go to the schools because they become burden on their parents. There is a provision in the Constitution that there will be no exploitation of the children. The people should be informed about this. Therefore, my suggestion is that for social justice, free legal aid camps should be set up so that the people in the villages are given necessary information. The students engaged in legal practice should take lawyers there because there the officials and the people's representatives will be present and the matter will be settled there and then.

There are a number of laws which are in existence since the British rule. We shall have to bring changes in them. But if the attitudes are not changed then those laws will serve no purpose. The law must benefit the rural people, and their children who are forced to do illegal errands or take to begging. Taking into consideration all these things, you will have to enact a comprehensive law so that there is around development of the child.

[English]

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI (Warangal) : While I welcome this Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill, I feel that unless the provisions in the various Acts passed by the Parliament are strictly enforced, it would be of no use.

In addition to these laws, more importance should be given to generating social awareness and multi-dimensional approach to the problem. This is because despite enacting so many laws by the Government for fixing age of the children to enter into any trade like the Factories Act, 1948, Mines

Act, 1952, Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and various State Acts and shops and Establishment Acts, children still continue to be employed not only by the various establishments like hotels etc., but also in hazardous jobs. Even so many children have been employed as bonded labour. I am surprised to see the reply given to an Unstarred Question No. 5687 in the Lok Sabha on 5th April, 1985 wherein it was stated that Government had no information about the number of child bonded labour. It will be appreciated that bonded labour is the worst sufferers because there is no age limit, no fixed working hours and no facilities for the workers.

Although this Act specifically lays down that children below 15 years should not be employed and bans the employment of children during night time in hazardous occupations, yet I find that the age factor of the children is very cunningly by passed by the employers. In fact, I am astonished that even the Government had admitted in a reply to a starred question No. 215 in Rajya Sabha on 14-3-85 that age of about 4000 children employed in match factories and fireworks factories are not available with the Government. This is a very sad state of affairs that although we are enacting so many legislations for fixing the age limits, we are employing the children without verifying their age.

We must also enforce these laws by enlisting the help of various social organisations because as I have stated earlier, merely passing laws is not the remedy, unless we are also able to create a social awareness among the employers and other people about the evils of employing children below the age limits specified by the various laws.

The Action Plan should be comprehensive, covering legislation, welfare arrangements including education and economic development. Even the Central Advisory Committee had recommended that the legislation should cover non-formal education for the working child, compulsory medical check-ups and health care. Skill development, training and arrangements for transport of working children should also be covered.

Why are parents sending their children to work? Down-trodden, weaker sections and socially and economically backward people are not in a position to feed and educate

their children and so they are compelled to send their children to work. Government are not allowing the children to work but at the same time they are not providing any alternative arrangements for food, clothing and shelter. That is why, I request that the Government should find some alternative arrangements for these children. Then only we can enforce our laws effectively and then only we can achieve success. I think that the Government should be able to implement the Act with the cooperation of Health, Education and other Social Welfare Ministries, and then only we can implement this Labour Act successfully. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. The hon. Labour Minister has taken commendable steps in respect of the working hours of the labourers and about the child labour in India.

He has created congenial atmosphere for the labourers during his short-term. It is a praise worthy step that he wants to effect amendment in respect of the child labour and lay down terms for wages. When we see children working in the hotels, sweatmeat shops or in other shops or see them working in the fields or see them grazing cows, buffaloes, goats of other people, we really feel pained.

In big industries, the employment of children is banned by law but they work in small scale and cottage industries and there they have to undergo great sufferings. The children working there are beaten up, abused and their confidence is shattered. In this way their future becomes bleak. Wordsworth had said about these children :

[English]

"Child is the Father of Man."

[Translation]

Long fellow had said :

[English]

"You are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said
For Ye are living poems."

[Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]

[*Translation*]

The plight of the child labour also attracted the attention of Dr. Mahadevi Verma, who has said :

*Shahi Shan bhikarin ki hai,
manokamna matwali.*

She is our great leader and a poetess. She also noticed their pitiable condition.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please continue on Monday.

Now, we shall take up, the Private Members' Business.

15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Report

[*English*]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th August, 1985."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House to agree with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 7th August, 1985."

The Motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Amendment of Articles 94 and 179

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

(Insertion of new article 48B, etc.)

[*English*]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave to granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of article 324, etc.)

[*English*]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS BENEFIT FUND BILL**

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : I beg to move leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a fund for the benefit of the farmers and agricultural workers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave to granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a fund for the benefit of the farmers and agricultural workers".

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**PUBLIC OFFICES (FIXATION OF
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND WORKING
HOURS) BILL**

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of public holidays and working hours for public offices.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixation of public holidays and working hours for public offices"

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL**

(Insertion of new Part X A)

[English]

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**FINANCING OF ELECTIONS
BY THE STATE BILL**

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the financing of elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of the States, by the Central Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave to granted to introduce a Bill to Provide for the financing of election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of the States, by the Central Government."

The Motion was adopted.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT
ALLOWANCE BILL**

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : I be to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed person in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed persons in the country and for matters connected therewith".

The Motion was adopted.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

TRANSPORT PARCEL SERVICE
WORKERS WELFARE BILL

[English]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measure for the transport parcel service workers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures for the transport parcel service workers."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

(Amendment of Sections 125 and 127)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mool Chand Daga to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 23rd April, 1985 will be a memorable day in the legal history. India a new interpretation of the law was pronounced that day which will be a memorable day in the legal history. In India a new gave a new awareness to the enlightened women. The enlightened muslim women are becoming consious of their rights. Previously the women were oblivious of their rights and did not have the courage to speaking but now they have become bold to raise their voice. Some people, who have faith in God, have drawn attention to the law which has become outdated. But I would like to point out that Muslims are full of human virtues like love and compassion. All these virtues are there in the Muslim community. There was a time when *Sati* practice was prevalent among the

Hindus. When the *Sati* practice become a social evil, efforts were made to eradicate that. Gradually, the people become enlightened and in this way this practice came to and end. "*Muslim mazhab nahin sikhata muslim auraton ka quid rakhna*" (It is not the teaching of Islam that women should be kept in bondage. The judgement which was delivered on 23rd April, 1985 in Shahbano Case has gives a new turn to the law. It was a small incident. A married man divorced his wife when she was 43 years old and was the mother of 8 children and the grandmother of 9 children. A lawyer, Mohammad Ahmed Khan took the case to the court. A bench of 5 judges of the Supreme Court delivered the judgement which does not interfere with the Muslim Personal Law. The Court based its judgement on the principles of morality. When a petition was made under section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, an amount of Rs. 25 was awarded to her per month. The High Court raised it to Rs. 179 per month, but, being a lawyer he pursued the matter further. He was a veteran lawyer whose income was Rs. 60,000 per year. He took the case to the Supreme Court. The judgement delivered by the Supreme Court created a Stir. *Mehar* is insignificant. It can be given at any time at the time of marriage. She had demanded maintenance allowance so that she could lead a decent life. Not only in India but enlightened women of other countries also welcomed the judgement. Today, in India, the people have become more enlightened and they are conscious of their rights and have started expressing their opinion regarding the present laws. New developments are taking place in the realm of the laws. In Kerala, a new development has taken place. It is well known and my colleague, Shri Banatwalla, might also be knowing about it that the incident concerning Jude Khan alienated C.P.M. from Muslim League in Kerala. It was ordered that Jude Khan be given lashes. The specification of the lash was that its weight should be 5 kgs. and the length of the wire should be 5 ft... (Interruptions). Of course, this resentment should be there but it does not last long. He was a mechanic who had come from Abu Dhabi. The matter was taken to the court and the punishment of lashing was stopped. Now there is new awakening. The Muslim Law questions as to why it has happened, It has happened because it is the demand of

morality. It is not interference with the religion. I shall read out what Asghar Ali Engineer has said :

[English]

"Asghar Ali Engineer maintains that the Muslim Personal Law is not wholly divine. He quoted from the Kuran itself to justify continued maintenance for divorcees in indigent circumstances."

[Translation]

In this way Asghar Ali Engineer expressed his opinion. In Pakistan also a commission was set up on the Muslim Personal Law to make a study in this respect. The time changes and with time everything changes. With the change of an era, the ideas also change...*(Interruptions)*...people have their are to grind in politics. Why do they not change? They are the influential people and they are on the lookout to find ways to serve their own interests. The problem is of those women who are still in veil and burqa and are not aware of their rights. The Supreme Court took note of it on moral grounds and gave this judgement and in that judgement they clearly said that a common civil code should be framed for all. It did not say that any exception should be made. It has even pointed out to the government...that "it has remained a dead letter." The Britishers had framed certain laws in India. They have been continuing. But there is some sense of awareness now among our muslim brothers and their womenfolk have come out of *burqas* and have through a challenge to conservation. What happened in Pakistan? Women were not allowed to take up jobs there. They were not given the opportunity to work. They opposed this. You want us to remain slaves of old ideas. I do not expect a young man like you holding the position of hon. Deputy Speaker to say such things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the law of the land and quote two or three paragraphs from the judgement of the Supreme Court :

[English]

"It is also a matter of deep regret that some of the interveners who supported the appellant, took up an extreme

position by displaying an unwarranted zeal to defeat the right to maintenance of woman who are unable to maintain themselves. The written submissions of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board have gone to the length of asserting that it is irrelevant to inquire as to how a Muslim divorce should maintain herself. The facile answer of the Board is that the Personal Law has devised the system of Mehr to meet the requirements of women and if a woman is indigent, she must look to her relations, including nephews and cousins, to support her. This is a most unreasonable view of law as well as life."

[Translation]

What a judgement the Supreme Court has given ! It has brought us to our senses. If any doubt is left, that should be clear from this. The judgement further says :

[English]

"It is a matter of regret that Article 44 of our Constitution has remained a dead letter. It provides that 'The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.' There is no evidence of any official activity for framing a common civil code for the country."

[Translation]

This is a hint for you, Mr. Minister. Government should try to bring a legislation for a common civil code under Article 44. This is the voice of the Muslim women who have come out of the *Pardah* and who have realised their identity. They are addressing the society and the Government.

[English]

"A belief seems to have gained ground that it is for the Muslim community to take a lead in the matter of reforms of their personal law. A common Civil Code will help the cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to laws which have conflicting by ideologies."

[Shri Mool chand Daga]

[Translation]

You should direct the Union Law Minister to bring a fresh legislation.

[English]

"Dr. Tahir Mahmood in his book 'Muslim Personal Law' (1977 Edition, pages 200-202), has made a powerful plea for framing a uniform Civil Code for all citizens of India. He says : 'In pursuance of the goal of secularism, the State must stop administering religion-based personal laws.' "

"Instead of wasting their energies in exerting theological and political pressure in order to secure an "immunity" for their traditional personal law from the State's legislative jurisdiction, the Muslims will do well to begin exploring and demonstrating how the true Islamic laws, purged of their time-worn and anachronistic interpretations, can enrich the common civil code of India."

[Translation]

Now there is awareness in the Muslim brethren also and they have also realised it. The muslim community to has learned people in large number, people professing different views. If they say...

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : You held them in very high esteem.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes, only the jeweller knows the worth of a diamond.

These are the judgements which should be gone through thoroughly. What happened in Pakistan when a report was sought by her on them ? There too, when women are summoned...(Interruptions).

In Pakistan also, both are summoned in Shariat Courts and are permitted to explain their case. It is not that one can resort to divorce at will. Similarly, at the time of marriage both the parties must be present. (Interruptions)

Similarly, in Malayasia they have amended the personal law. There was a time

when wives and...**. Now they have been prohibited. This provision in the Muslim Personal law has been amended. They realised that the law was outdated. They prohibited them where the wives...**... and...**...why... ? (Interruptions).

SHRI OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Where were...** wives ? You are not exercising any restraint. You are provoking us. We are not prepared to tolerate it. These remarks are uncalled for...(Interruptions) He is provoking us...(Interruptions) Do you want to create disturbances in India through this Parliament ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I yield, but I would like to say...

[English]

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Daga is referring to wives** according to Muslim Law. If it is so, then he should quote the source. He cannot go on like this.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, you expunge this remark that Muslim Law allows...** of wives; otherwiss, let him quote the source or law.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Whatever I read I have read from books.

[Translation]

Even at present, in many countries several laws...(Interruptions).

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : You till us the source...(Interruptions).

SHRI OWAISI : Why do you talk about my religion ? This is wrong. We shall not tolerate it at any cost...(Interruptions).

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I have already said that in the personal law...(Interruption).

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : On a Point of Order, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRIG. M. BANATWALLA : Is it a Point of Order or a request ? If it is a request, it should not go on record. It should be a Point of Order and he should say what is the rule under which he is raising the Point of Order...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't get agitated. What is your Point of Order ? What is the ruling that has been violated ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Sir, in this discussion everybody should be requested not to bring in religious sentiments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is no Point of Order. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I would like to read out to you from the report of the Commission of Marriages in Family Law. This Commission was set up in Pakistan :

[English]

"In the words of Alama Iqbal, the question which is likely to confront Muslim countries in the near future is whether the law of Islam is capable of evolution, a question which will require great intellectual effort and is sure to be answered in the affirmative."

[Translation]

These are your findings and the changes made in the law were based on moral consideration. This is not amendment in the personal law. It was done on moral grounds to protect the rights of the people. The legislation introduced by you should be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon. It should be discussed in this House after ascertaining the views of public from all part of the country. I have, therefore, moved the Motion.

[English]

"That the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion."

[Translation]

I do not want to close the chapter. It would be better to elicit public opinion. I

would reiterate that I have not said a single word about your Personal Law. Personal Law will remain, but when the question of morality comes, the rights will be protected. It is our duty to ensure that there is a common code. It is necessary.

SHRIMATI ABIDA AHMED (Bareilly) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are proud that we have a secular Government in our country and everybody is free here to profess his religion. The secular character of section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 had been upheld in Bai Tahira and Fazl Bi case. I do not know why Muslim Personal law is being brought in for no reasons by the Supreme Court in its judgement on grant of maintenance in Shah Bano's case.

16.00 hrs.

The manner in which the recent judgement of the Supreme Court has depicted the Shariat had a very egonising impact. The judgment makes a reference to the women but that has not been explained. Then what was the need of referring to it ? I would like to quote it.

[English]

And it is alleged that the 'fatal point in Islam is the degradation of women.'

[Translation]

This accusation is totally untenable. The Shariat enumerates the rights of the women thus she has the right to share her pavental properly, she is the sale proprietor of the property required by her; she gets *Mehr* from her husband which is decided according to the financial states of the husband; she cannot be forced to marry against her will. In this context, I would like to narrate an incident to which I myself was a witness.

A girl's parents had decided to marry the girl to a boy who belonged to a family with which the parents had old family relations, but the girl was against that marriage. She tried her best to convince her parents but all in vain. The appointed marriage day came and the marriage party came in a procession with great pomp and show. As is the custom, the vavil and the witness went to the girl and asked her whether she was agreeable to that marriage or not. The girl said, "No." They repeated the question perhaps thinking that they

[Shrimati Abita Ahmed]

might not have heard her properly—but the girl again refused. They asked her for the third time and she refused the third time. The result was that they openly declared in the presence of the gathering that the marriage was not acceptable to the girl. The entire *Barat* went back. From this incident you can imagine about the status of women in Islam. A girl cannot be married against her will. If a woman herself want to seek divorce, she is free to do so. The divorced woman gets maintenance from her husband till the *Iddat* period is over. It has not been mentioned anywhere that if any one does not wish to give maintenance he is free to do so but she is entitled to maintenance till the *Iddat* period is over. She has a share in her husband's property also.

At one place the supreme Court judgement states—which is very much against *Shariat*.

[English]

"Undoubtedly, the Muslim husband enjoys the privilege of being able to discard his wife whenever he chooses to do so, for reasons good, bad or indifferent, indeed for no reason at all."

[Translation]

In reply to this, I would like to read out the English translation of Alama Abdullah Yusuf Ali of Aayat 'Sura-e-Nis' of the Quran-e-Kareem.

[English]

"If, ye fear a breach
Between them Twain
Appoint (two) arbiters;
One from his family
and the other from hers;
If they wish for peace,
God will cause their reconciliation,
For God hath full knowledge;
And is acquainted with all things."

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the chair.]

[Translation]

Thus it is clear that divorce is allowed only when all efforts, as laid down in the Quran, prove to be in vain. Divorce can happen only when all efforts keep them to united fail. A married woman cannot be divorced without any reason; it is forbidden in the holy Quran.

With regard to the *Mehr* the Supreme Court Judgement States in the Shah Bano case—

[English]

"*Mehr* is not a sum payable on divorce under Muslim Personal Law."

[Translation]

And that is why it does not fall within the purview of section 127. In other words the Supreme Court overruled, in Shah Bano's case, the earlier judgement given in Bai Tahira's case. If the sum payable on divorce, as given in section 125, is not *Mehr*, then what else can it be?

I would like to quote what Shri Mirdha had said in this regard when he was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[English]

"Divorced women have been included and brought within the ambit of Clause 125, but a limitation is being imposed by this Amendment to Clause 127 viz. that the maintenance order would cease to operate after the amounts due to her under the personal law are paid to her. This is a healthy compromise between what has been termed a conservative interpretation of law or concession to conservative public opinion and liberal approach to the problem. We have made an advance and not tried to transgress what are the personal lives of Muslim women."

[Translation]

The way *Shariat* has been interpreted and the way the Quran has been referred to time and again in the Supreme Court judgement in Shah Bano's case is not proper, because without fully knowing the religion or without consulting 'Fiqha' 'Hadis' and

'Izma', the holy Quran cannot be quoted. As a result of this judgement the religious sentiments of the Muslims have been hurt. Therefore Government should frame a law which should prohibit interference with the Personal Law time and again and may end the disturbed atmosphere that has been created in various quarters as a result of Shah Bano's case, so that in future there is no complaint and the *Shariat* is not wrongly interpreted. *Shariat* is the soul of Islam and they cannot be separated from each other.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a serious debate is going on in our country about the plight of Muslim women who are subjected to out-dated customs and practices which is a shame to any civilised society. I am thankful to my esteemed colleague Shri Banatwalla saheb for giving this opportunity for us to discuss this issue.

Sir, the aim of the Bill is to evade the embarrassment caused to certain vested interests by two historic judgments of the Supreme Court in BAI TAHIRA Vs. ALI HUSSAIN and MUHAMMAD AHMAD KHAN Vs. SHAH BANU BEGUM cases. In the first case the division bench of the Supreme Court gave the verdict that if the amount paid at the time of divorce is not at all adequate for the women to carry forward her life then Section 127 clause (3) sub-clause (b) will not apply; the husband is obliged to pay maintenance according to section 125. I shall read out the relevant portion. I quote :

"The proposition therefore is that no husband can claim under section 127 (3) (b) absolution from his obligation under section 125 towards a divorced wife except on proof of payment of a sum stipulated by customery or personal law, whose quantum is more or less sufficient to do duty for maintenance allowance."

It is so clear that if, at the time of divorce, the husband pays sufficient money, then, the wife is not entitled to go to court to seek protection under section 125. I was listening with rapt attention to the speech of Shri Banatwalla saheb. But I could not find any convincing argument how this judgment makes inroads into the personal laws of the

muslim community. Sir, I cannot find any such thing. It only states that if the amount given is sufficient, then, it is okay. But if the amount is not sufficient, then a woman has every right to approach the court and seek protection under Section 125, what is the aim of Section 125 ? Why it was included in the Criminal Procedure Code ? This is the law of a secular nation, of a secular State, it is binding on all the people of this country irrespective of caste or community to which they belong. (Interruptions). This Section 125 is the law of the secular State. (Interruptions). It is incorporated in the Criminal Procedure Code because the State does not want vagrants in the State, the State does not want destitutes in this country. That is why this Section was incorporated in the Criminal Procedure Code and it is in conformation to the view expressed by the Division Bench of the Supreme Court. A full Bench of the Supreme Court gave its verdict in Mohammad Ahmad Khan Vs. Shah Banu Begum case, it has become a much controversial verdict. And what did the learned Judges mention in this ? The Judgment categorically states that in case there is a conflict between Section 125 and Section 127, Section 125 will prevail."

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : Why don't you read out that Section ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Supreme Court in this Judgment also makes it clear that there is no conflict...

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : He does not know that Mr. Banatwalla seeks to amend that particular Section.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I have every right to make my point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : MR. Sait, you will also be given time.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, in this Judgment also the Supreme Court makes it categorically clear that there is no question of conflict between Muslim Personal Law and Section 125. I shall quote here para 14 of the Judgment which says :

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

"Since the Muslim Personal Law which limits the husband's liability to provide for the maintenance of the divorced wife to the period of iddat, does not contemplate or countenance the situation envisaged by Section 125, it would be wrong to hold that the Muslim husband, according to his personal law, is not under the obligation to provide maintenance, beyond the period of iddat, is a divorced wife who is unable to maintain herself. The argument of the appellant that, according to the Muslim Personal Law, his liability to provide for the maintenance of his divorced wife is limited to the period of iddat, despite the fact that she is unable to maintain herself has, therefore, to be rejected."

So, it is quite clear that there is no conflict between Muslim Personal Law and this Section 125. Only if the wife is unable to maintain herself, the law will apply and the husband is bound to pay her maintenance.

On the question of Mahar, the Supreme Court made it clear that the amount paid at the time of marriage cannot be the amount paid at the time of divorce. The amount paid in consideration of the marriage cannot be an amount paid in compensation for divorce. That is the opinion expressed by the full Bench of the Supreme Court in this case. It is this judgement that has become the cause of concern of all the reactionary elements in this country.

Sir, I would like to mention one thing. What could have been the fate of our country, if the majority Hindu community in this country began following the Manu Smriti? Whenever there was a move for reforming the Hindu community, reactionary elements were there to resist it. When *Sati* was stopped, they made much noise. When the Bill to stop child marriage was presented before the Legislative Assembly...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute please. I have stopped you. I want to take the consensus of the House.

On 10-5-1985, two hours have been allotted for discussion. It has been extended further for one hour. Now the allotted time is over. How much time do you want?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : It is a serious matter. It needs more discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we extend it by one hour?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : We want to speak on this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, today we will finish discussion on this Bill.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, when the Bill to stop child marriage was brought before the Legislative Assembly in the late '20s—that Bill was known as Sharda Bill—that was vigorously opposed by the reactionary elements in the Hindu community. In 1950, Hindu Code was formed and there was a reaction. Each and every movement, whether minor or major reform in the Hindu community, was very vigorously opposed by the reactionary elements.

My esteemed colleagues Banatwalla Saheb and Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait Saheb are the unquestioned leaders of the Muslim community in our State. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : They should have taken a lead for reforming their community. But unfortunately, Shri Banatwalla is presenting all sorts of primitive arguments in defence of this outmoded custom. I am sorry to say that.

Sir, I would like to mention that there are so many judgements by learned judges from the Muslim community itself for allowing maintenance. I would like to quote the judgement of Justice Khalid while he was a judge in the High Court of Kerala. It is in 1976, 9 years ago, in *Muhammed Vs. Sainabi*. He allowed the maintenance petition and observed on the payment of *Mehar* :

"Payment of *Mehar* will not effect a discharge of a claim for maintenance, because the claim for *Mehar* is a valuable right available to the wife and this claim is a charge over the properties of the husband."

That is what he says about *Mehar*. He further observed :

"So far as the Muslims of Kerala are concerned there is no custom by which a claim for maintenance by the wife could be discharged by payment of customary dues."

That is the verdict that a very learned Muslim judge gave in 1976 allowing the maintenance petition. The Muslim law permits a man to marry four times. As far as my understanding goes, he can marry for the fifth time also, and that marriage is not void. (Interruptions) Anyway, he can marry four times. I would like to know what Banatwalla Saheb has to say about women marrying for the second or third time.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : One husband is a sufficient headache for her.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Under the Muslim personal law, a man is entitled to have two shares in his father's property whereas a woman is entitled to only one share, the Muslim personal law insists that, in place of every one male witness there should be two female witnesses. I want to know what my hon. and esteemed colleague has to say about this. To Banatwalla Saheb I would like to put a very simple question. All these things arose because the Muslim women went to court and applied for maintenance. It is because they applied for maintenance right from the lower court to the Supreme Court, the court allowed the maintenance petition and interpreted the Muslim personal law. He could have asked the women in his community not to go to court and thus oblige the Muslim personal law...

AN HON. MEMBER : There are black sheep everywhere.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : He could have told them, "Even if you are divorced and even if only Rs. 4 had been paid as Mehr money, you should leave with that you should not go to court". I may point out that in Banatwalla Saheb's own constituency, Pannani, the highest number of maintenance petitions in Manjeri court are from divorced

Muslim women. He would not have put forward these arguments and come with this Bill if for a moment he had thought of that unfortunate woman who committed suicide with her children because her husband divorced her and she had no means to survive. It happened in his own constituency. (Interruptions) Whatever be their arguments, these unfortunate divorced Muslim women are going to courts more and more and are seeking protection under section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a number of Members who want to speak on this. Please try to conclude.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, this is a very important Bill. please allow me some more time. I am mentioning only the points. The other day while presenting this Bill, Banatwalla Sahib showed the courage to mention in this august House that separate Shariat courts presided over by a muslim should be instituted in this country. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait Sahib for whom I have very high respect, mentioned in Cochin and that is reported in June, 25th, Hindu. I quote :

"Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) president, Mr. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait has strongly defended the observance of the "Shariat protection day" on June 14 and said that he would welcome it if the Government permitted the Muslim Community to follow the "criminal side" of the Shariat as well.

"Practising Shariat law of crimes would help reduce crimes, he told a Press Conference here on Monday."

I would like to know what is the opinion of the ruling Congress-I about this and none other than the Deputy Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Abu Kader Kutty Naha, Daheb mentioning about the Shariat protection day, said that whatever be the judgement of the Supreme Court, we are not going to obey it. He told that publicly. Sir, what I want to know is the opinion of the...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Let all the people show this courage.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I have no objection about this courage, but what I want to know is what is the opinion of the ruling

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

party here. The Union Muslim League is...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Dagaji said something, you are telling something else !

AN HON. MEMBER : The party will not interfere in the Personal Law.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : What the Congress-I members have to say about this ? The Union Muslim League is demanding a separate Shariat court that the criminal side of the Shariat should be practised in India and whatever be the judgement of the Supreme Court, we are not going to obey it. They are saying it and they are in alliance with you in Kerala. Both Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait sahib and Banatwalla sahib are one within the alliance. What you have to say about it, I just want to know. Sir, you know it is in pursuance of.

(Interruptions)

Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait sahib statement that Jamait, a communal organisation in Trivandrum gave a verdict that 101 lashes should be given to a poor muslim lady and her hair should be cropped. Again, I want to know what is the opinion of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government there have taken action.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : No action has been taken. What is the opinion of the Government ?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Sir, I have a point. In the press conference, a question was put to me asking for my opinion regarding the Trivandrum, Bimapalli... incidents. I have very clearly stated that Islam criminal law is not in practice in India. Therefore, it is wrong on their part to take the law in their own hands. It is very clear. They questioned me whether I would like the Government to have the criminal law of Islam for the muslims of the country. I said yes. I welcome it if the Government decides so. I welcome it because it will reduce the crimes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get a turn, then you explain please.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is your policy and Jamait is implementing that policy in Trivandrum. I want to know whether any individual or a communal organisation can run a parallel judiciary, parallel criminal procedure code and penal code and whether they can award punishment. What action the ruling Congress Party and the Government in Kerala took in this case ? All Congress-I Ministers were snugly ensconced in the ministerial cell while all these were going on. What is the opinion of the ruling Party about this ? I am proud that our Party took a firm stand in this controversy.....(Interruptions) I am not yielding, Mr. Kurien. I am proud that our Party took a firm stand in position and in this controversy. That was why our ally in the Democratic Front, the All India Muslim League left our front and joined the Indian Union Muslim League and the Kerala's Chief Minister, Mr Karunakaran was welcoming them with both hands.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Therefore, you had a divorce.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : These people are constantly interrupting me.

In all these positions the position of the Indian Union Muslim League—about which I have no doubt. But what I want to know is : what is the position of the ruling Party in this country which preaches national integration, national unity, secularism and all that ? What is their position ?

In conclusion I would like to remind Banatwalla Saheb as to what is going on in other Muslim countries. I think Banatwalla Saheb has the knowledge of reforms implemented in Egypt and the reaction of the fundamentalists. I would like to know in which type he is. What is going on in Pakistan ? What is the position of the Indian Union Muslim League regarding the fight of the democratic elements in Pakistan against this cruel implementation of Shariat. I know their opinion because both of them went all the way to Pakistan and met Zia-ul-Haque and told him that with the aid of the Government of India persecution of Muslims

is going on in India. That is what they have done....

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : That is a totally wrong statement that he has made. There was no such talk about persecution of Muslims with the President of Pakistan and our talk with the President of Pakistan was in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Pakistan. He was with us from the very beginning till the end. That must be known.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There is no uniform Shariat practised in the Muslim countries. The Shariat they are defending here is the Shariat implemented by the British in 1937. And with these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, you are very generous so far as such discussions are concerned.

At the outset I will submit before the House that this Bill invites the attention of the entire House on three fundamental principles—if you want really to make justice to this Bill. They are (1) religion and society, (2) Religion and the law and (3) religion and morality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may recall that in the 16th and Seventeenth century the fanatic Hindus and Hindu community as a whole very much believed in the concept that the Hindu wives will be burnt along with the husbands and that was the custom. They quoted from Vedas, right from the days of Manu Upanishad and all these things. As you know it was Raja Ram Mohan Roy who came forward in Bengal to fight against these evils and brought a new social reform which was accepted by the Hindus and even the fanatic Hindus could not question it any more. I am not saying this matter in the context of this Bill. What I am trying to refer is that our country possible has the unique example in the whole world where all religion are protected in their subtleties and practices and are fundamentally guarded by the Constitution. Possibly this is the only country in the whole world—even in the democratic nations—where such unique example is prevailing. Thanks to the contri-

bution of Indian National Congress to consolidate this process in this country.

Mr. Chairman, there are Hindu fanatics. There are Sikh fanatics. There are Muslim fanatics. Recently the Punjab incident has shown what amount of sacrifice we had to make right upto the life of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. As you know the extremists tried to put certain pressure on Longowal but finally he overcome those pressures.

Sir, I genuinely believe that Shri Banatwallaji brought this Bill into this House in order to ease the tension outside and to take a sanction in a democratic manner which will possibly create an atmosphere to solve this problem in a democratic framework without allowing the fire outside. If that is his spirit, I welcome that spirit. But I will explain a few points.

First, religion and society. Religion also follows society and society also follows the religion. I am not competent enough to say anything on the religious doctrines of Islam because I do not claim myself to be an expert on Quran but what I feel is that finally the message of every God or Prophet is kindness to human beings. Who follows this dictum to the last is the best followers of God. In between that there may be various interpretations which can be twisted this side and that side but the ultimate message of God is the message which should be interpreted into law. It is not that merely my personal emotion or sentiment that matters. I do strongly feel that in our society the Muslim community have a strong feeling that in some cases their personal matters are very much encroached upon by the law of the land or by some motive of political forces. After the Supreme Court judgement I know in abusive manner Hindu fanatics and a few critics tried to denigrate the image of the Muslim women to this extent that even the ordinary Muslim men who are not otherwise concerned about this matter felt very badly in their heart that we are being insulted and their religion is at stake. I know it not because I mix with Muslims or Hindus but this feeling is prevailing and if you allow it more then things will not be in the control of the House.

Therefore, I personally feel none of us in this House or outside should make any contribution in this manner which even

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsil]

remotely creates further confusion and touches the sentiments of the women in general and particularly the image of the Muslim women.

Sir, I was listening with rapt attention the contributions made by a few Members. I do not want to go into what they have said—Muslim husband marries four times etc.

I am a Hindu for instance. What about the Hindu husband behaviour with his wife? How do Hindu husbands behave with their wives? How many customs they follow? Even after the divorce, what do they do? Even after the divorce, following the rule under 125 to file the position and get the maintenance can you show one instance from the Ministry of law how many times they have protected the Hindd women within the ambit of the law to get their maintenance? 90% of the poor divorcee women in the rural areas could not step into the court of law and they die in the street or go in for prostitution. You know what the document of status of women in the International media is. It is not a question of Hindu women and Muslim women. The question is fundamentally economic situation in our society prevailing in this country. Whether it is a Hindu woman or a muslim woman, after her divorce, her condition is such that only God can take care of them, not anybody else. I cannot save nor Mr. Banatwalla can save. You can interpret the protection of law. You can interpret many arguments with common phrase of the Quran and fundamental principles of the Constitution. But the reality in this society is whomsoever is rich or affluent is treated in a different manner and interpreted the protection of law in a different manner and whomsoever is power to them the law is very costly, Mr. Chairman. Even the protection of law in terms of legal aid has become a mockery in this country. I know it Mr. Chairman. If you take the example of dowry death of the women, Hindu women, if you take the example of the divorced wives' pitiable condition, you will find most of the cases end in suicide because they do not get justice at all. How many lawyers in this country will take their petition to the law court without charging fees? Up to the High Court some arrangement can be done. But in the lower courts and district courts, how can

they approach them? This is the problem of the society.

Therefore, when I talk of religion and society, even if Mr. Banatwalla preaches religion of Muslim and fundamentats and I preach Gita and other thinks, that can satisfy me and his ego of religion. But that does not satisfy the society. So, the fundamental issue is economic situation and poverty in our country. The muslim woman who does not get sufficient money at the time of the settlement during the three months' period, naturally suffers and suffers all the time. Even if Mr. Banatwalla comes out with his argument and I have gone through his 'right' that her parents will look after her, it is very difficult to do so in our country these days. Mr. Banatwalla, you talk to the young muslim boys who are educated, you will know that they have become modern in the sense that they believe in the total concept of secularism. So, for instance, the poor parents get their daughters to somebody else after the 'Iddat' is over, about the maintenance, if you talk to their parents you will find that the parents are poor 'bunkars' who cannot look after their own mothers, wives and fathers in their houses. What will the poor lady do? She will feel 'I have become a burden to my parents' and she will become desparate and feel a little isolated. Where do the solution lie in this matter? I am not questioning your principle, I am not questioning your law. I am questioning the reality. There you talk of religion and society. But answer the question of reality first. The reality is that she is to be protected by the State and the reality is that she is to be protected by the very society, the reality is that she is to be protected by the Constitution and if that is the reality, what else she can do excepting to go to the court of law. That is very necessary. One has to understand this point. I have been in my constituency after I have heard the speech of Mr. Banatwalla and went and talked to the muslim youngsters who strongly resented and they said that the Supreme Court is encroaching upon our Personal Law and it is a fact, Sir, there is an encroachment into the Personal Law. There is no denying the fact—whether the Supreme Court is right or wrong—that there is an encroachment. I don't dispute that. The 'Suras' which have been quoted in the Supreme Court judgement are not relevant 'Suras' that contained in the

provisions of 'Talaq' and 'divorce'. I have through that. That is not the correct interpretation. The reality is something different. I have met a few families in a slum of Chowrabasti in Howrah. I met a few destitutes. I heard their pitiable condition. They said :

[Translation]

Just see, what our father can do, he is not in a position to make his own both ends meet, where from could he provide for us.

[English]

There was no mullah to guide them, what is the direction of Quran; there was no Hindu to guide them what is the direction of Geeta and there was no jurist to guide them what is the direction of Constitution. That is the reality and that is how the women suffer.

This Parliament's business is not to see how much his sentiments are hurt, and how much my sentiments are hurt, the duty of the Parliament is to decide how the women can be protected by the State and the Constitution in such a pitiable condition. That is precisely the point. There comes the question of religion, law and morality. There is the moral responsibility and the Parliament should rise to the occasion. I always hold the view—many hon. Members may differ—it is not the Supreme Court, which is supreme in the country, it is not the administration, which is supreme, it is the Parliament, that is Supreme. Even if the Supreme Court in its wisdom says something, again we can have a rethinking on the whole issue and come to a conclusion.

I strongly feel that there is an encroachment on the Muslim personal law. When the petition was filed, *suo moto*, the Supreme Court could have easily ignored that, they could have said that this was not a matter for Supreme Court, they should go to Shariat. They did not do it, and having not done it, I would not have minded, if they had totally ignored Quran, but having Quoted Quran and that too irrelevantly is not justice. It is unfair. The judgement has created tension and much provocation on the part of Muslims.

The Criminal Procedure Code was amended in 1973. I was a Member of the Select Committee, to whom the Bill was referred at that time. Shri Shamlal was also there. This point was debated many times, Shri Saifuddin Chowdhury was telling me about the Government's weakness under Section 127(b). It is not so. The Select Committee in their collective wisdom considered it and placed it in the Statute Book. And, it is because of the Late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi's sympathy for the women of the world that this additional clause was there for the maintenance, if they finally did not get protection.

Hon. Member, Shri Kurup was telling what is the thinking of Communists, Kurup should know, what CPIM can think in a moment, Congress takes a little time because of its national responsibility and not regional. This is because CPIM has got the political responsibility for toppling or getting into Government in a part, but Congress is responsible to the entire nation, entire community, and to the House. It is not merely Namboodripad's heroism in Kerala sweeping the entire elections, the Congress is responsible for the whole country. He should realise it. What Congress speaks today, CPIM speaks tomorrow if not the day after tomorrow.

Congress is not for interference in any religious practices, or any personal law, specially the Muslim personal law. That is precisely our point.

I will conclude with two points. I do not know the meaning of Shri Sulaiman Sait's chivalry in offering that if the Government agrees, they were prepared to practice the provisions of Indian Shariat etc. I do not approve of this. After all in a country like India, we must have a compromise on any matter at a particular point, and if we cannot achieve that compromise, we lose India. That is precisely the point. Never forget, that it is India; it is not Nepal of Raja Birendra, or Iran of Khomeni. It is India and we have to maintain the true spirit of secularism.

In conclusion, I would suggest that the Government should as quickly as possible find a solution so far as the women are concerned. Whether they be Hindus or

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

Muslims, the total responsibility for protection of the women after divorce should be that of the nation as a whole; with one restriction that should be in consonance with Muslim personal laws, as far as Muslim women are concerned. It should be left to them, no doubt, according to their law, and within the Constitutional provisions.

I wish Shri Banatwalla should lead that torch in the country like Raja Ram Mohan Rai for further reforms, that even after divorce their maintenance is assured. If not assured and if they go for protection to the State, or to the court of law, they should not be detached from the religion and they should not be branded as anti-religious.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the recent Supreme Court judgement has caused restlessness among the Muslims throughout the country. The judgement has been treated as an interference with the Muslim Personal Law which has caused outrage and restiveness among the people in various parts of the country. Government and the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in particular, when she held the reins of the Government, had assured that Personal Law of any community would not be changed or interfered with till such time as that community itself was ready for a reform or change. The Congress has consistently been adhering to this policy. Whenever such a law concerning marriage, divorce, adoption or Hindu law came before the House, it was assured time and again that Muslim Personal Law or the Personal Law of any other community would not be interfered with. There is a class in the country which is divided into two groups. Shri Kurup has left the House. That class is reactionary, leftist and progressive. Both the groups demand a uniform civil code in the country. It is not clear how the highest judicial body has been affected by this thinking. The Courts have given judgements of which there was no need whatsoever. There was no need to interfere with the Muslim Personal Law. You may recall that about two years back the Supreme Court had ordered the shifting of the grave of a Muslim in Banaras, which was unnecessary. The *Shariat* lays down the period within which the grave of a Muslim

can be exhumed. That grave was over 100 years old. If a living person occupies a piece of land for 12 to 14 years he becomes its owner but if a grave is more than 100 years old and it is shifted from one place to another without any reason it is not proper. In this way an unnecessary stir was created by interfering with the *Shariat*. Shri Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait is not present, he was one of the arbiters, who had gone to Banaras and in such a case where the shifting of a grave had been ordered, it is obvious for the State Government to be in a difficult situation. I am not sure in which State it is located.

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : The case has since been decided and the grave will not be exhumed.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : At least the occupation was concened.

Besides this, Calcutta High Court admitted a writ petition for hearing, which sought a ban on the Quran. The hon. Law Minister and the West Bengal Government deserve to be commended for quick action, who did not think like Shri Kurup. Shri Bharadwaj, our Law Minister is also present and he too tried his level best. Anyway, the matter was closed. Now, the Supreme Court judgement has raised another storm.

AN HON. MEMBER : This regime also fights for the protection of the Quran...
(Interruptions)

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : The Supreme Court has delivered the judgement under the Criminal Procedure Code... But the judgement had referred to the Muslim Personal Law and quoted from the *Ayats* of the Quran and had given examples of some countries which had made changes in the Muslim Personal Law, which was uncalled for. There was no need for this because in 1973 when certain changes were made in the Law, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha had categorically stated that there would not be any interference with the Personal Law of any community.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever the marriage of a girl is fixed, the amount of the *Mehr* is also fixed, that is the custom among the Muslims. The marriage is fixed with the consent of both the boy and the girl and the

amount of the *Mehr* is also fixed at that time. The quantum of the *Mehr* is a different issue and it is generally decided keeping in view the financial status of the husband. It is a good thing if the *Mehr* is given prior to the marriage or immediately after it but in case of divorce, the woman is entitled to the *Mehr*. Otherwise also she is entitled to it. When people are unable to pay it they get it exempted, as in the case of the death of earlier of the spouse. In fact it is a debt on the husband and he has to pay it whether there is divorce or not. The woman has a right to the *Mehr* amount and only she and no one else—not even the husband—has any right to it. The husband has to pay that amount and after divorce it becomes all the more necessary. The woman gets the entire amount of the *Mehr*. If she has not been able to get it due to any reason, she can seek redressal through the court and the law. Even property can be auctioned to ensure payment of the *Mehr*. But once the *Mehr* has been paid and if thereafter the divorce takes place, it is not the responsibility of the husband to give maintenance to his wife. This is the Islamic Law.

Many other religions also adopted this law. The Hindu Act has adopted it and now the woman has a right to her father's property. As Mr. Das Munsii rightly pointed out, if anyone does not have property, what will the hapless women get in that case? But those who have property, in that case the woman is entitled to it and she can move the court for the enforcement of her right. The woman has a right to the movable and immovable property of the husband and she can claim her right. The woman can get her rights enforced through the various organisations set up at various places. The Muslim Law bestows on woman a high status and we do not treat them as minions.

We treat women as superior beings. The Quran says :

17.00 hrs.

[English]

Heaven lies under the feet of mother.

[Translation]

We show great importance to woman but everything is classified and the extent of importance is all laid down.

[English]

It should be viewed in the totality of things, not in a single, isolated way.

[Translation]

It will have to be viewed in totality. Women has not been treated as a lesser being and she has a high status. But such an interference on the part of Supreme Court has created panic among the Muslims and they are apprehensive that these judgements by various courts would tamper with their Personal Law. The courts view it in an isolated way and not in totality, and base their judgements on a one-sided view. I would, therefore, request that the courts should not interpret the Muslim Personal Law. If there is any such case, it should be brought to the notice of this Sovereign House. This House, the Congress Party or the Government never had any intention to interfere with the Personal Law of any community. On the contrary, the Government have been assuring time and again that the Personal Law of different Communities would not be interfered with by the Government till a demand to this effect was made by the people of that community and till they were ready to accept it.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would, therefore, say that the Bill introduced by Shri Banatwalla to remove the confusion caused by the Supreme Court judgement is justified. It would be all right if the Government accepts it, but if it likes to introduce a Bill on its own, we would welcome it and we can then request Shri Banatwalla to withdraw his Bill. It would be better if the Government introduces a Bill on its own which may help remove the confusion, or this Bill should be accepted. If the Government takes action and removes the confusion, the courts in future, will hesitate to interfere with the personal law of any community as they would come to know that Parliament does not favour it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country has varied religions, customs, languages, cultures and dresses. This diversity constitutes the country and our dignity lies in maintaining

[Shri Zainul Basher]

this diversity. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that we are proud that our country is like a garden where flowers of various colours and hues bloom. And therein lies the dignity of this country. This is the very aspect which has earned us respect in the world and the country's unity also remains intact. If there are only roses in a garden it will not look as elegant as that garden where different flowers like rose, marigold and 'chameli' bloom. I would, therefore, request you not to turn this country into a garden having only one kind of flowers but to maintain the country's diversity. Therein lies the beauty of this country. I conclude with this appeal.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Since I came in this House, most of the old members know that whenever the question of women came up in this House, whether she be a Hindu or be a Muslim or be a Christian, I am one of those who always took up their cause. Today, I don't think that there is any necessity to deviate from that. From that point of view, I oppose Shri Banatwalla's Bill.

The husband of Shah Bano, she alleged, was earning Rs. 60,000 a year, and this lady was granted Rs. 25 a month as maintenance allowance by the lowest court. The society does not have any duty towards them. What Mr. Banatwalla and the like of his were doing in this situation, I would like to know on behalf of all the Muslim, the Hindu and the Christian women? You remember the personal law and the interference only now.

Before I come to the merit of this very question, I recall with great pride that, when through Hindu Code Bill Hindu Laws were being revised in this House—but I was not a member of the House; it goes without saying—I know, as a woman activist of that time, there was a tremendous opposition against that, and the woman who led the battle against that opposition, one of them, I revere and will revere throughout my life, was Shrimati Hajrah Begum, who was a Muslim women, who led the fight for the Hindu code Bill reform, and if today, the same Hajrah Begum leads the battle also for a uniform civil code, that will be in the spirit of the nation. I am proud of that fact, neither as a Hindi nor as a Muslim but as a woman she

led the battle. That is why, if today Geeta Mukherjee says one or two things about this question, I hope they will be taken in the same spirit without raising religious passion on this question.

Now, a question has arisen whether Muslim personal law should be interfered with or not. I do understand that there is a great sensitivity among the Muslim community on this question. How should we approach that? Should we not approach that in a scientific manner? My dear colleague, Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsri has gone away. I thank him for several points raised by him. But I would like to know what is his conclusion? Whp even a progressive boy like him could not quote Article 44 and say "the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India?"

May I know whether a Members of the ruling party do stand by this Constitution? Do they? If they do, is there no obligation under it to bring the Muslim Community also around constructively? That is the question. I believe that they do. I believe that all of us stand by the Constitution. It may not be a compulsion, definitely directive.

AN HON. MEMBER : No, no.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : If it was given in the Directive Principles has anybody said that the Directive Principles are no more valid in the country?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : They are not mandatory.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Whether they are mandatory or not, whether those who stand by the Constitution, will try to take the State in that direction since that is the Directive Principle? I would like to know this. That is the moot question.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : What about Article 25?

SHRI NARAIN CHOUBEY : That is ornamental.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now, coming back to this immediate concrete thing that has come up, I think, it is being posed as if by interpreting it, the Supreme Court Judgement has interfered with the Muslim personal law and it hits

their religious belief. I underline the word 'religious'.

The question arises, what is our experience in the country? If all Shariat laws are the last word in religion, then how is it that in some Muslim countries, the same Shariat laws are interpreted differently and different laws are being enacted?

AN HON. MEMBER : No; there is no uniform law.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : In Syria, on the same question of Iddat—it is in vogue, in practice in Syria—that beyond the period of Iddat maintenance is being granted to Muslim women. May I know?

Now, our hon. friend and colleague, Shri Embrahim Sulaiman Sait has said that in India Muslim Criminal Law is not in vogue. He would have been happy had it been there! The very fact that a part of the Shariat laws are not being implemented in India and there was no purani that itself shows that these are not divine. It has come from usage. If all the Shariat laws are divine then how is it that only a part of it is applied and another part is not being applied? (Interruptions). Am I to take that when question of women came, when family came, then only it becomes the last word on religion. Male domination must be maintained, be it Hindu or be it Muslim, and that is how these personal laws were made over a period. But they were also changed over the period. (Interruptions). Yes, they were changed over the period. Please remember that Manusmriti is no more valid as my friend Mr. Kurup said, it changed over a period. So, this Muslim personal law also changed over the period. Most natural!

So, this furor is being made as if religion is at stake is baseless. No, Sir. I may be a believer in religion, I may not be a believer in religion, but to those people who believe in religion, to them with folded hands I say, "please try to think whether these were the immutable religious concepts or not." If so, why were they modified over the ages according to the then prevailing situation of the society itself? Therefore, I think, the whole House should approach this question not in a spirit of believer or non-believer and not with a political angle or for getting or losing votes of a particular community—after all, women constitute half

of the voters—but for a uniform family code which will give equal protection to all women belonging to all communities. Why should we not think that way? What is preventing us from thinking that way instead of whipping up religious passions on this question? Therefore, I would like to point out with humility to Banatwallaji and other Members of the House, whether belonging to ruling party or opposition, not to think that a great disaster has taken place or heaven has fallen on our head. Is it not a fact that in India itself even on this family question there are already some laws which are applied to all communities, whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian? What do you say about the Special Marriage Act, 1972, Medico-legal Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 and Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929? Are all these Acts not valid for Muslims, Hindus and Christians? Are they not already touching the family question? There my complaint is different. Good laws are made, but when it comes to implementation, they fail, that is a the grave danger. That is why I say that these laws must be implemented and no retrograde step should be taken for taking political advantage. Banatwallaji asks as to what is happening among Hindus; are they not burning the girls? My heart bleeds when I plead for those Hindu women who were burnt. When I saw today in the newspapers that Rita Nargis, a Muslim woman was burnt for dowry, in the same way my heart bled. Why should your hearts not bleed in the same way? Why should you not think really in terms of a uniform family code? Try to evolve it. Do not be at loggerheads on this question. Do not whip up political sentiments. This is my appeal to all of you. We have already taken certain steps. These very laws referred by me earlier show that. Nobody at that time complained that these were in contravention of the Muslim Personal Law. They apply to all of them equally. Therefore, instead of taking retrograde step and whipping up retrograde communal feelings in whichever way it may be, I appeal to all community leaders, whoever they may be, to try to think over the whole question from a humanitarian angle. If you all believe in religion that should help you in evolving a uniform civil code which will really be the religion of religion i.e. humanism.

With these words, I do oppose the Bill. I appeal to all including Banatwallaji to think

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

in terms of the Directive Principles without whipping up communal passions.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the heat that has been generated by this Bill or by the decision given by the Supreme Court has frightened me from participating in the debate. But there are quite a number of respectable Muslim community members also who have supported the judgement of the Supreme Court. I would refer to the opinion expressed by Mr. Baharul Islam, a Member of Rajya Sabha, who was the Chief Justice of Assam High Court and then a Judge of the Supreme Court... (Interruptions).

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Mr. Bahrul Islam went to the Prime Minister with a delegation of Muslim Members of Parliament requesting that this judgement should not be accepted. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : If Mr. Bahrul Islam met him privately, I am not concerned with it. I am here concerned with this publication which is given in this newspaper. I do not know what he has done secretly or whether he has differed with the opinion expressed here in the newspaper... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI OWAISI (Hyderabad) : He went along with Muslim Members of your congress Party. He went with Mrs. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Even then you stick to your version then after all what is correct—this or that ?

[English]

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I am interrupted like this even on the mention of the fact that somebody has expressed his opinion, the opinion in favour of the decision of the Supreme Court, how can we have the cool, calm and dispassionate consideration of the proposition which has been placed before this House ? I must explain to you, at the very outset, that nothing could be farther from my mind then to hurt the sentiments of any Member of this House or to hurt the religious sentiments, belief or conviction of any Member of this House or any community outside. Therefore, I plead with them to bear with me even if my opinion is not in

accord with their opinion. I was only saying that I took up courage to speak because I found that there was a considerable volume of opinion in favour of the decision of the Supreme Court, and before me is an article by Mr. Bahrul Islam. He might have gone to the Prime Minister privately. I am surprised that a person of that eminence should act in this manner but I would not make any comment on him. But the opinion that he has given is that the judgement of the Supreme Court is right. He feels that there was no inroad into the Muslim Personal Law. There is another opinion also with me here of an eminent person who was also a judge. He also said that it is not an encroachment or an inroad into the Muslim Personal Law. If my friends feel hurt that it is an inroad into the Muslim Personal Law, I will plead with them to consider the whole situation in the prevailing context. The Muslim Personal Law is based upon the revelations by God to the Prophet, so nobody can challenge it. But let us try to find out if it was also the injunction of the Prophet that a divorced woman will get maintenance only for three months during the period of *Iddat*, or if she happens to be pregnant, till she delivers the child. Is that the injunction and if it was so, are we going to accept it in the present situation since we have progressed very far ? I feel that the whole world is concerned with the status and the conditions of women. You know this year, the United Nations Decade for women has concluded. A conference was held in Nairobi where women representatives from all over the countries had gone to find out what progress has been made with regard to the status and conditions of women. I thought that during this Decade for Women, when the Supreme Court gave this decision, it would be held as a charter of relief to the Muslim women.

Shri Banatwalla while placing this Bill before us forcefully and with emotion said that it is an inroad on the Personal Law. He also quoted from the principles of Muslim Law by Mullah and Tyabji and many others. And then it was also their objection, he said, that the Supreme Court is not competent to interpret the law. I have seen it in the newspapers. In a Press Conference, which was attended by Shri Banatwalla and Syed Shahabuddin, it was said that this is an inroad into the Muslim Personal Law and

that the Supreme Court was not competent to interpret it. Both these points have been answered by Shri Islam. Firstly, he said that the Supreme Court derived this jurisdiction from the Constitution; and secondly if the Privy Council was competent to interpret the law, why should not the Supreme Court? Why should they be allergic to the Supreme Court now? The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is there and it is competent to interpret the law.

Now, you may say that they have a law and that it had been misinterpreted by them and so you can correct it. Secondly, it has been said that the Government had agreed. One may agree or may not agree. The hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee while arguing very forcefully urged Government for acting under the Directive Principles laid down under Article 44, said it was an assurance given to the minorities that unless they approached the Government for taking a step in this direction, the Government will not on their own come forward to form a common Civil Code. And even when the Hindu laws were codified into one Hindu Code, this point was made. Then also the Government had said the same thing—unless the minorities come up with their demand, the Government would not interfere in their personal law. Therefore, Article 44 is not being acted upon and no action is being taken under that Article, because we do not want to disturb the whole Muslim community. We do not want to hurt their feelings. This is far from us. But certainly in this particular case, I feel that the Judgment of the Supreme Court to my mind is an extension of the right which has been given to a divorced women to claim maintenance from her ex-husband. It was limited to the period given there. The Supreme Court said that the whole objective or purpose of the Chapter IX of the Code of Criminal Procedure was to prevent vagrancy and destitution. The Criminal Procedure Code of 1898 had a section 488. It was enacted by the Britishers which had provided for this kind of maintenance to a divorced woman to prevent her from going to the street. No objection was then raised. No hue and cry was then raised. Then, in 1973, of course, this new Chapter was put in. Section 125 was also incorporated.

So far as I am concerned, I have read

the judgment of the Supreme Court and also the opinion of Mr. Bahrul Islam. I am afraid of saying this or quoting him that the period of Iddat does not occur in the original verse because it might create some annoyance to them. But I must say that this period of Iddat for 3 months, at the most, means the obligation of a husband to maintain the wife for only 3 months. This is something which is to my mind very unreasonable. (*Interruptions*) The period is necessary to determine whether the woman is pregnant or not. I know that. But if she is not pregnant then you can stop giving her maintenance. She will have to go back to her parents. Whether they are in a position to maintain her or not, she will have to go back. In the scheme of things, you have been telling us that there is a scheme of maintenance provided by Muslim personal law and women cannot be vagrants or destitutes or cannot go to the street.

But, Sir, our social and economic conditions being what they are, we have any numbers of cases not only of Muslims but also of Hindus, Christians etc., who are destitutes. There are poor women fending for themselves; they are destitutes; they are vagrants. I would plead with the Government that they should come forward with some scheme to look after such women who have no support, who are destitutes, who are vagrants. But, when we are enacting a law, we will not do something which will actually increase vagrancy or destitution. We will certainly take into account the fact that we should provide for them till they are in a position to remarry, or in a position to have a good living, or they die. So, this is the scheme. The judgment of the Supreme Court says this. In Shri Mirdha's speech, he has quoted. This is what Shri Mirdha has said :

"As I said, under customary or personal law of certain communities, certain sums are due to a divorced woman. Once they are said, the Magistrate's Order giving maintenance could be cancelled."

Sir, whether it is reasonable or unreasonable sufficient or insufficient, will not be the question. This is the purport of what Mr. Mirdha has said,

[Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha]

I put it to Mr. Banatwalla,—the Mover of this Bill,—whether it is complete, are you satisfied that this should not be questioned? Sir, interpretations have been put on 'Mehr' also. The amount of money which is paid to woman as 'Mehr' is also perhaps being confused with certain sums which are customary to be paid under this law. No. That is something else. And the Supreme Court has said this. Even Muslim law has said that Mehr is an amount agreed to be paid at the time of marriage. It may be paid in part or it may be deferred payment. That is another matter. But whenever it will be demanded, it will be paid. It is not in consideration of divorce. It is not for the sake of maintenance of the divorced women. There may be some other sums which are agreed upon to be paid. I would like Mr. Banatwalla to enlighten the House as to what are those sums which are ordinarily and customarily paid to a woman. And it would be deemed to have been fully discharged, (Interruptions). There are two types of payment. One of them is deferred payment. Deferred payment is Mahar. Mahar is an amount paid in consideration of marriage. As a mark of respect for woman that amount is paid. You cannot confuse it with that amount which a woman will be entitled to receive under the customary law. Therefore, I would submit and request Mr. Banatwalla to enlighten the House on this particular aspect. Now that point is taken care of, I do not think that a person of the standing of Mr. Banatwalla raises the question of—competence of the Supreme Court to interpret the law.

The other question is that I have always felt that even if the period of maintenance is limited to Iddat, the Supreme Court has only amplified the right of the woman which is available to her under the law. It has only extended the period. If the amount given to her is not sufficient to maintain her at the time of divorce, then she is entitled to claim a reasonable amount till she remarries or dies, and in the mean time if she does some business and earn some income, the liability of the husband will cease. In this behalf my submission would be that we should approach this question purely from humanitarian point of view. Mr. Banatwalla said that the Muslim Law is founded in

"humanity and justice" and if it is founded in "humanity and justice", then humanitarian considerations do compel us to ensure that a divorced woman is maintained for her life. We cannot merely take comfort in the scheme of maintenance provided in the Muslim Law, we cannot take comfort in the fact that she takes shelter with her parents. Her parents might have several children and they might not be able to maintain her. This is not a satisfactory preposition and this Parliament must be convinced that there should be such a provision by which a divorce will be maintained and will not be thrown on the street as a destitute or vagrant.

With these words, Sir, I once again submit that this matter should be discussed thoroughly and I hope Mr. Banatwalla will withdraw his Bill and let the Government take a decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think we can extend the time for discussion of this Bill up to 6 o' Clock.

AN HON. MEMBER : No, Sir.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : We will not be able to finish it today. We will continue it next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is to continue next time, for how many hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): The time for this Bill can be extended by two hours and can be carried to next time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would request you to conclude the discussion on this Bill today itself. The time can be extended and the discussion can be concluded. Government can also express their view. Therefore, it should be concluded today itself.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, we will extend it for two hours. We will continue it next time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the House agrees that we will extend the time for this and continue it next time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

*KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadhavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset I want to thank you for permitting me to speak on such an important Bill. It won't be wrong to say that this Bill is very sentimental too. I had intended to speak on this Bill rising above politics and keeping politics away from my speech. But, Sir, I was very much pained to see that the leaders of some parties, while speaking on this Bill, tried more to establish their own parties rather than trying to establish this Bill of to establish the status of woman. I had expected that all the members participating in the discussion on this Bill will rise above politics and rise above their party interests. If we really have any love for the women, any sympathy for the women, then we should rise above petty party politics. I felt very sad when I saw that such a senior lady member like Smt. Geeta Mukherjee tried to establish her party instead of protecting the women, in her speech. She tried to say repeatedly (*Interruptions*). Please don't disturb. She had her say now I must be allowed to have my say...Please allow me to speak, she has already taken part in the discussion...(*Interruptions*). Sir, I felt very sad when during her speech on this Bill, Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee repeatedly said pointing at the Congress benches, "why are you not supporting a common civil code. Why are you not becoming progressive? Let me say that it is not your party which is the progressive minded in India. It is the Congress party which is progressive minded. (*Interruptions*). Sir, what hurt me most was when she indicated the Congress benches and told us to be more progressive and more bold. You all know that this is the same Congress party which fought against the 'divide and rule' policy of the Britishers before independence. This is that Congress party whose leader Smt. Gandhi sacrificed her life even fighting for the cause of national integration and unity of India. She tried to protect not only the

Hindus or Sikhs or Muslims or Christians but she tried to protect all the religions. Just a day before her death she said at a public meeting in Orissa that "I do not care whether I live or die. I shall continue to serve the people till my last breath. If I die every drop of my blood shall strengthen our country and keep united India alive." This is what she said to save the country. All the reforms that has taken place in the country, all the progressive work that has been done in the country, all has been done under the leadership of the Congress party. We do not know what the Congress party will in this case. But we, who are speaking in the Parliament on this Bill of Shri Banatwalla, are expressing our individual opinion only. Our Constitution clearly says that India is a secular country. Every religion has its own tradition, its own ideology and wealth of philosophy. When the Hindus salute and bow before the sun God, they say in Sanskrit,

*Om Namo jawakusum Sankashyam,
Kasyapayem mahadutim*

When the Muslim brothers read the 'Koran' they say :

*La Ilaha Illilah,
Mohammad Rasullulah*

The Christian brothers say :

'There is none but one'.

The Sikh brothers say :

*Vahe guruji ka khalsa,
Vahe guruji ki fateh.*

Our Constitution is true to this spirit. Sir, Islam has its own ideology. The Islam ideology stands for social justice to the humanity. But in spite of that I will have to speak up a few things while discussing this Bill.

Sir, the 'Koran' says that proper respect and regard should be shown to the women. There was a time when in the Arab countries infant Muslim female children used to be killed at birth itself. But Islam is incarnation of peace. Therefore the 'Koran' speaks of respect and regard for the woman. The 'Koran' also says :

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

*Insaan ke agar bas mein hai
to sitare bhi aurat ke liye la sakta hai*

This shows how much regard 'Islam' has for the women.

*Muddai lakh bura chahe to kya hota hai,
Vahi hota hai jo manzoor khuda hota hai*

Islam prescribes so much respect for the women. Sir, we do not want to interfere in any religion. I do not want to hurt the feelings of our Muslim brothers. Every religion has its own ideology and tradition... (Interruptions) Sir, these GM people always disturb and always try to establish their own voice. We have to say something they can't allow. This is not politics... I want to request Shri Banatwalla Sahib to withdraw this Bill of his in the interest of us all and in the interest of the community and let some such Bill brought forth by the Government itself. There the Muslim brothers may come forward in a more effective manner for providing protection to the Muslim women. We, the Hindu sisters and Hindu brothers are at your aid, but the Muslim brothers will have to come forward with a more progressive outlook with a brother mind because we are living in a modern age where a medieval thinking will not be effective. We are marching towards the 21st century why such things should exist today? Why a section should be hurt through discrimination? You should yourselves take the lead to ensure that nobody suffers. You come forward, we are welcoming you. If such a Bill comes from the Government side, we will all welcome and support that Bill so that the women may not be insulted in any manner and proper protection is provided to them.

I will not take much time as many members want to speak on this important Bill, I will only mention a few other things. I want to draw the attention of the Shri Banatwalla and other Muslim brothers to the case of Shah Banu Begum. Sir, Shah Banu was married in 1932. In 1975 she was divorced. She approached the court in 1978 for justice, when she got a divorce from the court. If I assume that she was 20 years old at the time of her marriage, today after 46 years when she has been divorced, she will be about 66 years old. Now at this advanced age, if you do not provide for her maintenance, if your Muslim society does not

arrange for her living on a permanent basis, then how can a helpless woman live and keep her body and soul together? You have the thin about it sympathetically. We do not want to interfere with or hurt the Muslim personal law. We do not want to by pass the 'Shariat'. But at the same time in the 21st century no muslim woman should feel that she is not getting equal justice, or equal opportunity. This sort of thing should not be there. We have seen that in Turkey, in Egypt, in Pakistan etc. only one law is in existence. Here I am not apposing the speech of Geeta. I liked her forceful speech and I welcome the same. But we should make certain while speaking, that no politics pollutes religion, we should speak with responsibility. Religion speaks differently and politics speaks differently. I want to draw your attention to one other thing. In today's 'Ananda Bazar Patrika', an important newspaper of Bengal, one news item has been published under the heading "Death of 'Rita Nargis'". This is a very sad event for us all. The reason for her death (murder) has been given as due to dowry." But I know that according to the 'Shariat' of Islam, girls not have to pay dowry. It is the boys who pay dowry for marrying girls. But when we see that even then such incidents are taking place or there is a likelihood of their recurring, then we must take protective measures before hand. Rita Nargis died on 19th July. But when her father appealed for a post mortem, he was not given any opportunity for post mortem. Such things should not happen. A few days back in the market of Calcutta, a muslim woman was burnt to death. Therefore, we must see that the muslim women get protection and equal justice and equal opportunity. The Constitution assures protection to all religions. We who are here, belonging to different religions, we should all unite together, and rising above politics we should all strive together to achieve this goal. I will specially request Shri Banatwalla to withdraw this Bill and to ask the Govt. to come with a similar Bill.

That Bill should provide for freedom of speech for the women, and fresh opportunity to a right to live with dignity and equal justice and opportunity. We, the Hindu sisters are with you and will support you. There is no conflict between Hindu and Muslim. Working with full unity we should try to broaden our outlook in the 21st

century, that is the need of the hour. We should develop a modern attitude towards such matters. In the middle ages we have seen that the muslim women played important and influential roles. Think of Meherunnisa, Nurjehan, Hamida Bano Begum, Jehanara, Roshnera etc. who played important roles even in State matters in the middle ages. In India also we have so many eminent women. But today many muslim women do not get proper education even since they are living in 'Purdah'. Why can they not move forward with the modern times? It is your responsibility to look to that. With that I thank the hon. Chairman for giving me time to speak and I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill moved by my dear colleague Mr. Banatwalla on the 26th of last month.

Sir, I have a feeling that I am duty bound to support this Bill because it vitally concerns my religion, my belief and, together with this, also Shariat of Islam and the vital problem of integration of the country and communal harmony. Sir, it is very unfortunate that the highest judicial body of our country has gone wrong in many aspects in this case, in Mohammad Ahmad Khan Vs. Shah Banu in appeal No. 103 (8) delivered on 24-4-85. This judgement is not only a flagrant violation of Muslim Personal Law, but it is also a violation of the secular character of our country. It is a violation of the fundamental rights of the people of this country and not only this, Sir, the seriousness of the judgement does not stop here. The judgement has erred also in wrong interpretation of the verses of holy Quran.

Together with all this the Supreme Court has completely ignored the intention of this august House. The same Criminal Procedure Code Bill was under discussion in 1973 in this august House and together with Art 25 (1) Sec. 127(3) (b) was added. Sec. 127(3) (b) was added to the Criminal Procedure Code Bill that was under discussion then. Why was it done so?

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Did you object to it at that time?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : I did object. My speech is there, in 1973 you can see it. I have moved Amendments also.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : We even walked out. We moved amendments. It is there in the proceedings.

AN HON. MEMBER : But there was the consenses of the House and they passed it.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Yes. But how? How the Bill was passed—I must go into details. The members seem to be so much ignorant about the past history of Sec. 127(3)(b). I was the person who opposed the provisions during discussion in the House. I rushed to the Prime Minister and told her that it is against the Muslim personal law and was also flagrant interference in the Muslim personal law. Representations were made to her. Delegations met her and the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi understanding our feelings directed Mr. Mirdha, the then Home Minister who was piloting the Bill to introduce this particular section—that is Sec. 127(3)(b), which provided that if the Magistrate is satisfied. I quote :

“the woman has been divorced by her husband and that she received, whether before or after the date of the said order, the whole of the sum which, under any customary or personal law applicable to the parties, was payable on such divorce, cancel such order...”

The section was particularly introduced to protect the Muslim personal law. Mr. Mirdha was very very categorical when he said that ‘through Criminal Procedure Code we do not intend introducing any change in the Muslim personal law.’ This was clearly the intention of Mr. Mirdha the Home Minister. I will go into details later when I come to that point.

One thing I would like to point out very clearly. Our country is a secular country and the founding fathers of the Constitution had very wisely incorporated in our Constitution the fundamental rights chapter and in this we have Art 25 (1). What does it say? It quotes :

[Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait]

"Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion."

This is the fundamental right given to the Muslims and other religious minorities of this country. Now, one thing I would like to say here is that they have got these fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN. The hon. Member can continue next time.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Central Excise Rules, 1944

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Janardhana Poojary I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 :

- (i) Notification No. 183/85-CE published in Gazette of India dated the 9th August, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendment to Notification No. 85/85-CE dated the 17th March, 1985 so as to restrict the benefit of exemption available to goods falling under Item 16A of the Central Excise Tariff to rubber products (other than tread rubber and camel back).

- (ii) Notification No. 184/85-CE published in Gazette of India dated the 9th August, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the products *viz.*, tread rubber and camel back falling under tariff item 16A of Central Excise Tariff, upto a value not exceeding Rs. 7.5 lakhs cleared, for home consumption, by or on behalf of a manufacturer from one or more factories, or from one factory by or on behalf of one or more manufacturers, in any financial year, from so much of the duty of excise leviable thereon as is in excess of 12% *ad valorem*.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1299/85].

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 12, 1985/ Sravana 21, 1907 (Saka).